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VELA'S RECORD

By John Economos

VELIMIR KUPRESAK, Sydney United's fabulous captain and star central marker, is poised on Sunday night to break the record as the Club's longest serving player when United clashes with the visiting Parramatta Power at the Sydney United Sports Centre.

The record for most games played for the Club in the NSL, stands at 238 and was set by the former and dynamically unpredictable flank-striker, Manis Lamond.

Having now laced up his boots for his 11th consecutive season at Sydney United, the powerful and highly experienced Kupresak last Friday night equalled Lamond's record in the clash with Carlton in Melbourne.

Come Sunday at Edensor Park, United will honour their most treasured 36-year-old captain with a pre-match presentation to be made to him.

Easily the most tragic section of this magnificent defender's most illustrious career, has been the fact that Kupresak, despite a decade of consistency in the National League, has never won selection for any of Australia's national teams.

Imagine for a brief moment had Kupresak lined up with Australia's captain and stopper Alex Tobin with the great Milan Ivanovic at sweeper on that infamous night at the M.C.G. on November 29th 1997 against Iran.

Australia was blocked for the World Cup Finals in France when Iran was allowed to score two goals in the dying minutes.

Had Kupresak and Ivanovic, these two magnificent champion defenders played for Australia on that dreaded night in Melbourne, they would never have allowed Iran an inch.

When ABSW contacted the 'Prince of Defenders' last night, big Vela in his humble manner told us: "It's going to be a most memorable honour for me, a record I never believed for a moment I'd be breaking."

"I made my debut match for United in November of 1989 when I transferred from Victorian State League side St Albans."

Best Players

When questioned who were the best players he has played with, and against, over the past 11 seasons, in a flash Kupresak recoiled:

"There have been a few, but I must rate playmakers Ivan Petkovic and Kresimir Marusic as the best two I've played with in the National League."

"As far as the best I've played against, well again over the years there have been many. But South Melbourne's captain and striker Paul Trimboli must stand over the top of all."

"He is a wonderful player."

Most Memorable Matches

Reflecting over his past 11 glorious seasons in the League, 'Vela' vividly remembers at least three games.

"The first was very embarrassing when I was sent off in my 200th League match against Marconi for a 'hand ball' offence."

"Then there was last year's victory in the Final over highly favourites Perth Glory when we beat them 2-1 at Marconi Stadium, in a game few expected us to win."

"Then there was the 1997 Grand Final up in Queensland which we lost 2-0 to the Brisbane Strikers. This was in a match that everybody expected us to win."

continued on page 9



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Steaua sign young Aussie

By Vince Battiatto

Top Romanian club Steaua
Bucharest has just signed 19-
year-old Newcastle youngster
Josh Maguire to a five-year contract.

Maguire was cut by Newcastle
Breakers coach Lee Sterry just 28
days before the national league kicked
off because he was too similar in style
to Vasco Trpevski.

Josh first travelled to the UK on trials
three years ago spending time at
Wolverhampton and Crystal Palace but
over three months was not able to
secure a contract.

It has only been with the help of his
personal trainer, Dan Stalinescu, that
Josh was able to get trials in France,
Germany and also with Steaua.

Originally, Josh was set to have an
eight-week trial at the Romanian club.
So impressed were they with the young
Aussie that they signed him to a first-
team five-year contract after only nine
days.

"I'm just wrapped to have this
opportunity," he told ABSW.

"The main thing is that I get to play."



Josh Maguire: Five year contract.

When you play people see you."

Josh is the second foreigner to join
the club, the first being a Spanish player.

He is back in Australia spending the
Christmas break with family before
flying out on January 7th for fitness
training in the mountains of Bucharest.
He then heads to Naples with his team
to play in the NORSCA Cup.

He joins a mighty European club,
once European champions in 1986, 20-
time Romanian champions and famous
for grooming youngsters for selling
abroad.

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	Adelaide Force	Auckland Kingz	Brisbane	Canberra	Carlton	Gippsland	Marconi	Melbourne K	Newcastle	Northern Spirit	Parramatta	Perth Glory	St Melbourne	Sydney Olympic	Sydney United	Wollongong
Adelaide Force	X 2-3 13	20 15 0-0	32	19 34	18 26	30 2-1	22	1-1	28	24	1-2					
Auckland Kingz	27 31	X 33 14 0-3	1-1	29 12	22 26	16 18	1-0	24	20			3-3 2-4				
Brisbane Strikers	2-1 19	X 21 1-1	0-1 34	17 15	28	2-2 32	3-1	24	5-1	30	26	13				
Canberra Cosmos	3-0 32 0-1	X 24 28	19	34 18	1-2 13	22 1-1	26	0-1 1-3	7	30						
Carlton	23 15 25	2-0 5-1	X 1-1	21 2-1	13 17	1-3 27	30 32	19	3-1	34						
Gippsland Falcons	14 28	16 29	33 20	X	12 31	1-0 2-0	18 24	0-1	22	0-1 1-1	26					
Marconi Stallions	33 0-3 18	16 0-4	30	X 14	24	1-0 28	15	20 31	2-0	26	22	1-0				
Melbourne Knights	16 30 0-1	17 22	13 32	X 3-0	0-1	20	0-3 26	24	2-1	1-0 33	28					
Newcastle Breakers	1-1 17	1-1 2-1	27 31	23 2-3	25	X 21	29	12	16 33	15	14	2-2				
Northern Spirit	12 3-2	14 22	31 18	27	25 1-1	29 0-2	X 33	16	20	0-1	15	24				
Parramatta Power	21 34 23	2-3 26	1-1 17	1-1 2-1	0-1	19 X	3-1	28	13	1-1 30	32					
Perth Glory	0-0 17	1-2 23	4-2 15	3-3 13	6-1 21	30 34	25 X	3-1	32	28	19					
South Melbourne	25 21 27	2-2	12 14	3-0 23	3-0	19 34	2-0 29	4-2 X	17	31	15					
Sydney Olympic	2-1 1-2 12	20 29	33 25	2-1 27	2-2 23	31 14	18 X	34	17	31	15					
Sydney United	1-0 2-1 0-0	25 29	21 1-2	19 23	32 0-2	12 27	0-1	13	16 X	18	18					
Wollongong Wolves	29 23 25	31 12	16 2-0	27 1-2	20 3-0	14 33	2-1	0-4 22	17 X							

Numbers indicate which round the match will be played in. Home teams listed vertically.

SOUTH KEEN TO CRACK RECORD

South Melbourne and Carlton will do battle on Sunday continuing a newfound rivalry. Melbourne editor Bert van Bedaf previews the encounter.

DARE one say it? Melbourne soccer is that fledgling giant wanting to wake up and take its rightful place among the sporting legends in this sports-mad town.

There's not enough rivalry to stir the soul, some critics say. Well, that's not quite true.

The great battles between the Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne only a few years ago matched it with the best of derbies anywhere in the world.

But during those days the Knights had stormed to the top of the national league and South was challenging for new trophies after its 1991 national triumph.

Sadly, the Knights have faded somewhat since then, languishing in 13th place on the NSL ladder and the "traditional" Melbourne derby has lost some of its former currency.

Enter newcomer Carlton. Starting from scratch, the Blues built a new team under coach Eddie Krnecovic three seasons ago.

The upstarts got to the grand final with some sparkling soccer in their first season, only to be denied by a classy South Melbourne, beating the Blues 2-1 with a controversial Con Bousianis goal at Olympic Park.

The defeat has forever stuck in the Carlton throat, at least until the loss has been revenged. It also set up an intense rivalry in the "new era" of Melbourne soccer.

Under new coach Stuart Munro, Carlton is a new outfit that is determined to win the title this season.

Frankly, there's no love lost between any of the Melbourne clubs. The Melbourne Knights regard the north-west of the city as their territory and South Melbourne have a monopoly on Melbourne's Greek

community after former Soccer Australia chairman David Hill banished Heidelberg United from the national league.

The Melbourne Knights have won the championship twice. Carlton is yet to climb that mountain, but South Melbourne have captured the coveted trophy four times.

The Blues are on the warpath — out to topple South from its perch.

South's ardent following and the keenness with



Paul Trimboli: Still doubtful for big clash.

which the newfound rivalry has been embraced was demonstrated last season.

At last season's major semi-final between the two teams, on May 3 this year, a record crowd of 14,850 crammed into Bob Jane stadium. On Sunday, South wants to break that record and show they are not only a power on the field, but are also supported by huge following and not only of Greek extraction.

There are, of course, a lot of other things on the minds of the South brains trust. As Oceania champion, Australia's back-to-back national champion flies to Brazil in January to represent the Southern Hemisphere at the World Cup for clubs against the European and South-American Titans of world soccer.

That is why Sunday's match will also carry a Latin flavor. South's pre-match entertainment will carry the theme of "Feel the Latin rhythm, share the Brazilian pride". There will be Latin singers and dancers, face painting and joy rides to create a carnival atmosphere.

Only one Brazilian will be capable of spoiling the South Melbourne party Carlton's striker Alex Moreira, who has scored eight goals so far and is showing good form.

South Melbourne will be without Hungarian goal keeper Milan Udvarcz, who was sent off against Perth Glory for spitting on striker Alistair Edwards.

South's 24-year-old youth keeper Chris Jones is likely to take the Hungarian's place, in stead of with new signing Chris Roche, who was contracted for only a year last week.

The 3-1 loss has put a damper on South's finals aspirations, with the club lying in ninth place. A win against Carlton is needed for South to stay in touch with the top six.

A highlight will be the continued sibling rivalry between South striker John Anastasiadis against his brother Carlton keeper Dean.

The Perth adventure also left its injury scars.

Goran Lozanovski copped a knock and Nick Orlc has been carrying an injury. Captain Paul Trimboli didn't play and is still doubtful with a groin injury.

Young signing Richie Alagich has been plagued with injury all season and has yet to take the field. Jim Tsekenis and Steve Panopoulos are also doubtful.



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Ange Postecoglou



Goran Lozanovski

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

STEVE IOSIFIDIS, South Melbourne's champion central defender, knocked up his 'century' of NSL matches for the current League champions last Sunday in the away battle against Perth Glory.

The 25-year-old sweeper stated: "Hitting my 100th NSL game while playing for Australia's leading club, is an achievement I will always be proud of."

"I joined Souths in the first year that Angie (coach) Postecoglou took over, and winning two League championships well before my '100th' game is an achievement in itself."

"Angie says to us that hard work breeds success and I firmly believe in that too because hard work never goes to waste, and with that comes success."

Meanwhile Souths last week signed a new



Andy Harper: Breakers' intelligent and observant striker.

was invited back to the Ray Price Lounge for a hot supper plus drinks.

After the Power's phlegmatic General manager Brad Levy had made an excellent and short welcoming speech, as did the Power's coach David Mitchell, Harper was heard by 'Good Oil' to say: "What a club. They do every little thing ever so correctly which is so important."

Steve Iosifidis: South's NSL 'Centurion' from last Sunday.



Steve Iosifidis: South's NSL 'Centurion' from last Sunday.

goalkeeper, 24-year-old Chris Roche from the Victorian Premier League club, South Dandenong, on a one year contract to enable him to travel to Brazil next month for FIFA's inaugural World Club Championship.

Postecoglou stated: "Chris did pre-season training with us and we felt this was a good chance to sign a third goalkeeper for our trip to Brazil."

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS' most valuable and intelligent striker Andy Harper, could not but help be immensely impressed by the Parramatta Power's administration people last Friday night at the Parramatta Stadium.

Immediately after the match, and despite that Parramatta had just lost the game to the Breakers, the entire Newcastle contingent

"They really are a most professional outfit and will go places."

PARRAMATTA STADIUM last Friday night was not the place to be if one was a real Soccer purist.

Whilst the main attraction for the Soccer purist was the action in progress on the pitch between the Parramatta Power vs the Newcastle Breakers, some bright spark and inexperienced marketing and promotional 'genius', decided to throw in a 'bonus' for the fans.

The 'bonus'? A band was squatted right behind one of the goals, on the hill, which played jazz music to help entertain the fans.

Great stuff, but.

The band however, after the match had kicked off,

continued to play music during play.

In the first half, the 'Glenn Miller' squad merrily blasted their tunes away, totally unaware that they were severely annoying the concentration of the Newcastle Breakers' gentle giant goalkeeper, Bobby ('John Wayne') Catlin, who was 'keeping wickets' just 15 metres away.

Not only Bobby, but both sets of players, plus fans, were not impressed.

The last thing big Bobby Catlin needed, was for a band to be playing right behind his 'stumps', as the 'enemy' (Parramatta Power) were storming his box.

What if Parramatta had scored?

Would 'Glenn Miller' have switched his rendition from jazz to 'The Last Post'...as a 'bonus'?

Just as well that the most likeable Catlin is a truly gentle, and most patient, giant.

Imagine if the goalie happened to just be the former Manchester United's Peter Schmeichel in goals.

The blond and fiery Swede, in seconds would have hurdled the fence to get at 'Glenn Miller' and change his tune to 'Sounds Of Silence'.

Catlin at the end of the night was all smiles as he kept a clean sheet that

winner against Marconi, the tower suddenly rocked in the wind.

The two 'tower-inexperienced' radio journos perched at the top in their radio box, instantly packed death.

Both were struck by fear that they were about to come crashing down to earth.

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SPEAKING of the Northern Spirit, at the last home game at North Sydney Oval, two radio journos who had never been to the ground before,

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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

Leichhardt Tigers on Saturday night will hold its annual pre-season launch with a lavish dinner at its headquarters on Parramatta Road, Camperdown.

The Tigers' Sponsors, Cadets, Youth League, Under 18s, U 21s and First Grade squads plus coaches and managers will be presented for Season 2000 which this time round kicks off on January 7th and 8th.

All guests will be entertained by Australia's ace comedian



Ray Seager with music by 'Tenderheart' and the pulsating 'Atomico Tropical'.

••••

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS this Friday night will unveil their sparkling and most colourful brand new cheer squad, the 'Heartbreakers'.

Prior to the kick off as well as at halftime for the Breakers' home clash against the Perth Glory, the professionally prepared squad of 25 young stunning 'Heartbreakers' will



By John Economos

entertain the fans with spectacular synchronised routines.

The 'Heartbreakers' have been most meticulously choreographed and drilled by the well known Dayna, who also created Marconi's current squad of 25 'Stallionettes'.



Dayna: Vivacious choreographer, par excellence.

••••

KAPPA, ITALIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION'S TECHNICAL SPONSOR

The Basic Group, owner of the Kappa and Robe di Kappa trade marks, announced with great pleasure that they have been successful in the bidding for the technical sponsorship of F.I.G.C., the Italian Football Federation, Marco Boglione, Chairman and CEO, commented.

"The possibility of having the Kappa logo on the shirts of the "azzurri" is one of our oldest dreams.

The Italian National Football team is one of the most famous sport federations in the world and it integrates perfectly with our rapid global growth and our desire to remain strongly aligned with both soccer and an Italian culture and style.

The aim for the forthcoming week is the one of finalising an agreement with Mediapartners, who obtained the commercial rights of the F.I.G.C., which would create a total

sponsorship package that is truly "Made in Italy."

The Basic Group, headquartered in Turin, Italy, is a leading supplier of athletic and active apparel and footwear throughout the world.

Operating through a network of licensees its brands, Kappa and Robe di Kappa, are present in over 60 countries.

KAPPA AND THE NATIONAL TEAM SHIRT

50,000: this is the total number of orders placed world-wide for "Azzurri" team shirts since the new National football team's uniform designed by Kappa first made its appearance on 10th February.

This commercial success bears out the stylistic choices made by Kappa, whose debut with the Italian team is reminiscent of this country's important footballing past.

When the Italian team play against Denmark, they

will wear the "away" shirt: the famous white uniform with a sky-blue stripe across the chest. This, like the sky-blue team shirt, represents a return to the traditions and splendour of the past and is destined to become a symbol for football fans everywhere.

But the innovations regarding the Italian team's look continue.

During the matches against Denmark and Belarus the national team will wear the three stars of the world champions on their sleeves, but as from June the new summer uniform will feature the three stars in their definitive position above the Italian tricolour shield.

Although it has only just begun, the union between the National football team and Kappa appears to have met with the universal approval of team officials and fans alike.

The Italian team's new look has hit the mark.

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Victorian Soccer Federation

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Bert van Bedaf

Victoria's soccer fraternity — premier, state, provisional and national league clubs — elected commissioner Manny Galanos as chairman of the Victorian Soccer Federation, succeeding Joe Brondolino, who is a commissioner of Soccer Australia.

Brondolino was elected a SocAus commissioner last February 28, requiring him to step down within 12 months. He took over from Gippsland Falcons strongman Don Di Fabrizio, who retired. He announced his resignation as VSF chairman on October 22 and virtually anointed Galanos as his successor.

"I felt it incumbent on me to retain both positions until the end of season. I chose to resign last October rather than in February 2000 to ensure there would be fair and unbiased election process at the AGM," Brondolino said.

Galanos was elected to the position unopposed. There was some speculation that another commissioner Vasko Stojcevski would be making a late bid, but he decided to stay on as VSF treasurer and concentrate on the looming GST complexities.

This year's Andy Kun Trophy, for "outstanding personality of the year in Victorian soccer," was awarded to South Melbourne president George Vasilopoulos.

After more than a decade as president and three national title wins, Vasilopoulos

said he enjoyed many a conversation "as a young man" with the late Andy Kun.

"He was concerned about soccer, but when we see the dedication and commitment that I've seen from the mums and dads to junior soccer, we can all be proud. When the junior clubs work well, the senior clubs will work as well," Vasilopoulos said in his acceptance remarks.



A former Green Gully president, from 1971-76 and a life-long supporter of soccer in Victoria, Lewis Stafrace was made a life member of the VSF.

Stafrace served on several VSF management committees throughout his 41 years of involvement, as a player, referee and club official.

George Wallace was re-elected VSF president, also unopposed. John Dimitropoulos and Tony Dunkerley were re-elected as commissioners for two-year terms. Jim Mills missed out on re-election. Phil Koraitsas stood for commission-

er, but lost to Trevor Parry who filled the third two-year spot up for election.

A lawyer and involved with South Melbourne as well as a co-founder of Melbourne's community television station, Channel 31, Dimitropoulos will concentrate on contracts, disputation and media.

Dunkerley, a businessman in the plastics industry, will continue to promote junior soccer. Parry's interests are in raising the level of professionalism of club administration and the standard of refereeing.

Stojcevski delivered his third surplus in a row, when presenting the financial statements for the year ending October 31, 1999, announcing an operating profit of \$33,259 to give "an overall profit for the year of \$64,800".

"Our retained earnings to date have now gone to \$129,250, which is fairly pleasing," Stojcevski said, meaning the VSF is about \$130,000 in the black.

Some figures, which may interest clubs, include "membership fees and levies", which amount to \$1,077,036. On the cost side, "salaries and wages including salary packaging expenses" add up to \$604,823".

Together with superannuation contributions and various taxes, the wages bill comes to \$729,708. Administration costs \$334,497, giving a basic cost of \$1,064,205 to keep Soccer House ticking over.

Only \$29,240 was spent on "advertising, promotion and marketing, in contrast to \$85,932 the previous financial year.

Sponsorship and grants were \$211,386, slightly up from last year.

"The overall costs for the year were relatively contained," Stojcevski said.



Joe Brondolino: Finally replaced.

"However, the inclusion of women's soccer and the money spent in our endeavors to continually promote and develop soccer in Victoria, has to be monitored fairly closely, as we have to compete with other codes to lure young people across to our sport.

"The year 2000 has to be approached

fairly conservatively, as it brings a number of uncertainties, such as the GST. We don't know exactly the full impact of the changes. We do know it will bring a further administrative and financial burden for the Victorian Soccer Federation and clubs alike," he said.

What will the future bring under a new leader? A lively public speaker, the new chairman gave little away after his election, saying he was "privileged to stand here as your chairman" and "we still have a long way to go."

Later he expanded, mentioning "junior development", "getting the referees on board" and "fostering sound financial management" as some of his primary concerns.

He's also keen to create club growth. "I'd dearly love to have a second division of the national league to enable Victorian clubs to grow and expand," he said.

With the Victorian Premier League reduced to 12 clubs at the season's start on February 4, 2000, the opportunity to join a second division NSL is a mouth-watering prospect for several cashed-up Victorian clubs, such as Bulleen and Green Gully, eager to move on after the Olympic Games.

Galanos said the VPL would have a commissioner as chairperson of the management committee next season.

"We're also discussing radio coverage with a community radio station for next season and on top of that we will be doing some advertising in the mainstream media," he said.

NSL SECOND DIVISION



NSWIS ASSISTANT COACH, MALE PROGRAM (PART-TIME)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified coaches to become involved in the above program.

This position is part-time and involves working with the NSWIS Head Coach in the development of NSW Elite Youth Players.

Applicants must hold at least a Level 2 (old course) or a Senior Coaching Licence with an ACC Level 2 accreditation and also be prepared to undertake a State Coaching Licence.

Written applications for the position close **WED 22 DEC 1999** and would include full details of coaching and playing experience.

Address all correspondence to:

The Manager Coaching and Development
NSW Soccer Federation
PO Box 6024
Blacktown Business Centre NSW 2148

By Bert van Bedaf

With the national league most probably being reduced to 12 clubs, South Melbourne president George Vasilopoulos declared himself in favour of a second division of the national league, saying it would offer clubs something to aim for.

"I am comfortable with 16 clubs, but at the same time I like (the idea of) a second division. It has worked in other parts of the world. It gives the top and bottom clubs and the State teams something to aim for," Vasilopoulos said.

"In the Victorian Premier League Altona Magic won the premiership three times, but there was nowhere else for them to go. After a while people (who no longer wanted the championships) got tired and they let the club go. There is no reward at the end of the season."

"We (South Melbourne) won the (national) championship last year (and the year before) and it did not make us a dollar. The World Cup for clubs (where South Melbourne will represent Oceania in Brazil next month) has given the club something to aim for."

"That's what the World Cup does for the national league and a second division of the national

league will do that for the State leagues. It will give people hope," he said.

Vasilopoulos forgot to add that the World Cup for clubs also netted South a massive and an unprecedented \$3.8 million for just taking part.



George Vasilopoulos: "Likes the idea of a second division."

He also confirmed he'd had held talks with Carlton to share Bob Jane stadium with the rival Melbourne club.

Carlton's experiment playing at Olympic Park

on Friday nights has flopped. Only 2166 spectators turned up recently, when the Blues beat Canberra 5-1.

"I did have a talk with them. We're looking at the Carlton situation."

"They're not happy with the lack of spectators coming through the turnstiles," Vasilopoulos said.

"This (Bob Jane) is a soccer stadium. Olympic Park will never be a soccer stadium with a running track in the middle. It lacks parking on a Friday night and people won't turn up," he said.

But Vasilopoulos believed South Melbourne could also benefit from a co-tenant, sharing the load.

"We have a \$15 million facility and we're using it 17 times. You tell me any other business with a risk capital of \$15 million that uses its asset only 17 times. It will go broke. We should be able to create a rivalry with Carlton and with the Melbourne Knights and supporters of ours should come to their games as well."

"All Melbourne clubs should look to assisting each other and towards co-operation in a difficult period. Melbourne should be able to support two or three national league clubs and (crowds of) 8-10,000 people should be enough at the game," he said.

"We won the national championship last year and it did not make us a dollar."

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

LOOKING AT FOUR IN A ROW

By John Economos

The Newcastle Breakers on Friday night face the Perth Glory at the Breakers' Stadium in a match they're most desperate to win to make it four wins on the trot.

"This is a scary match for us," stated Newcastle's coach Lee Sterrey.

"The Perth Glory is the team I've picked to win this season's League championship.

"They have a championship winning squad which is a brilliant one and they have a fine quality and very good coach in Bernd Stange.

"It's a team that you must respect.

"But at the moment Newcastle is running high on adrenalin and on Friday night we are back at home after three straight wins.

"Last Friday night we had a very valuable win over the Parramatta Power in Sydney.

"Now my whole squad is really



Todd McManus: Newcastle's vastly improved central marker.

buzzing at the moment," Sterrey stated last night from Newcastle.

The only injury that is worrying Sterrey a little, is a slight hamstring strain to his star striker Andy Harper.

"I think 'Harps' should be okay by

Friday but I'll be taking some precautions with him.

"We have now had three wins on the trot and my team would love a very big and vocal crowd to turn up on Friday to support us.

"We want them to come and see their team that has been doing the business for Newcastle," Sterrey ended.

Newcastle's defence in recent matches has tightened immensely, mainly due to the top form hit by twin markers Todd McManus and the vastly improved Glenn Moore.

Both McManus and Moore have injected much steel into Newcastle's almost stainless flat back four.

■■■■

Meanwhile in other news concerning the Breakers, the Club is working on 'importing' from interstate another goalscorer to further strengthen their squad.

The striker concerned in his mid 20s, is a former Australian international who has expressed a deep desire to move across and join the Breakers.

COLOSIMO ON THE WAY BACK

By Bert van Bedaf

SIMON Colosimo has started jogging. This should not be such startling news, if it weren't for the fact the young Carlton star underwent a complete knee reconstruction following a cruel foul on him by Manchester United player Andy Cole in Sydney last July, when Colosimo played in midfield for the Socceroos.

Four months is a long time to be out of the game, but Colosimo's rehabilitation is progressing. From swimming and cycling, the 20-year-old talent has upgraded his physiotherapy to a gentle jog.

"It is only a small step, but it is something," Colosimo said.

Carlton and Colosimo are hoping he may be able to make a comeback towards the end of the national league season and possibly take part in the finals series.

"Everything's on track so far," Colosimo said. "I've been doing a little running on my own and hopefully I can come back before the end of the season. I'm working on it."

Carlton has put any legal action against Cole or Man. United on hold, waiting to see how well Colosimo recovers.

"If he's as good as he was before the injury, there won't be a problem," Carlton general manager Lou Sticca said.

Before the injury, Colosimo was close to joining an overseas club, possibly in Italy. These plans are now also on hold.

■■■■

SOUTH Melbourne has signed a new goal keeper.

The 24-year-old Chris Roche has been signed for a year from Victorian first division State League club South Dandenong.

Roche was on his way back to the Victorian Premier League, going to Port Melbourne, but an NSL future with the back-to-back national champion sounded more attractive. South Dandenong was relegated from the VPL last season. Roche will travel to Brazil next month with South Melbourne to be part of the squad competing in the World Cup for clubs.

In reality, Roche will be the third keeper behind Chris Jones and South's overseas signing and first-choice goalie, Milan Uvarac.

Uvarac impressed in pre-season matches with his general ball-handling and his accurate throws.

But lately, the Hungarian gatekeeper has been less reliably coming out of goal, costing South some goals.

■■■■

THE Melbourne Knights may have lost talented attacking midfielder Zeljko Susa.

The Olyroo midfielder is going to Spain to trial with first division club Alaves.

Knights general manager Robert Hrlic said Susa is going on the strength of a video, showing highlights of Susa's game. He is confident a transfer will go through.

"If Alaves is happy, we'll sell Susa," Hrlic said. A transfer sum of \$350,000 is believed to be involved.

Susa's departure will leave a big hole in the Knights' midfield.

Coach Vlado Vanis is understanding of the player's ambitions to play overseas.

"Of course, I can't stop him, and I won't stop him," Vanis commented.



Simon Colosimo: Comeback.

CARLTON general manager Lou Sticca categorically ruled out any move to Bob Jane stadium.

"Never, it's not on," Sticca said. "We've got a 10-year lease at Olympic Park and we have to start putting down our roots."

"I was part of a club known as gypsies, who moved from ground to ground."

"We've got to make up our minds and say this (Olympic Park) is where we're going to stay," Sticca said.

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Newcastle Breakers v Perth Glory



THIS FRIDAY
NIGHT KICK-OFF
7.30PM
AT THE
BREAKERS'
STADIUM



**Youth
League
Kick-Off
5.15pm**



Shane Pryce



Gareth Niven



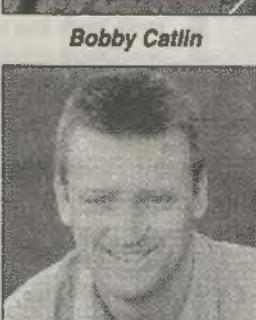
Andy Harper



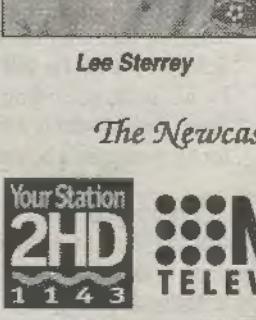
Travis Dodd



Bobby Catlin



Lee Sterrey



Bernd Stange

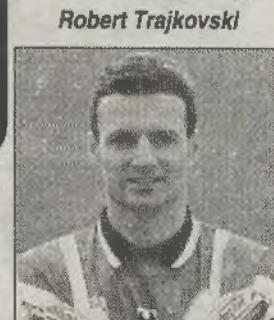
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Cheersquad"
in full,
colourful
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Bobby Despotovski



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Jason Petkovic

**See
the
Stars
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Stars**

The Newcastle Breakers are Sponsored by:



LACK OF STABILITY HAS DAMAGED CITY

Special Report: The Mass Exodus

By Allan Crisp

Since the inception of the National Soccer League in 1977, stability has been the hallmark of the Adelaide Force Football Club.

But all that has changed this season is that there is a virtual revolving door ushering an unprecedented number of players through the exit gate.

A staggering eight players were purged from the 1998/99 season player list and the trend continued after the current campaign kicked off.



David Terminello (Carlton), Travis Dodd (Newcastle Breakers), Dino Mennillo (Auckland Kingz), Brad Armour (Cumberland United), Mark Yates (Modbury), Damian Stam (White City Woodville), Daniel Menecella (Campbelltown Red Devils) and Andy Leane (Cumberland United) got their "Don't come Monday" notices pre-season.

Former Adelaide Sharks midfielder Corey Artone was signed but was delisted without having kicked a ball in anger, as was his ex-Sharks team mate, striker Danny Vidakovic.

Then a mere two weeks into the season, Socceroo sweeper Milan Ivanovic and Youth Socceroo goalkeeper Anthony Breden were discarded after having

played only the first two games of the season.

Brazilian striker Igor Rodriguez was next to vanish, after surviving only the round two loss to Brisbane Strikers and the round three clash with Parramatta Power.

Much was made of the arrival of former Glasgow Rangers midfielder Derek Ferguson, who enhanced his reputation with a fine home debut against the Football Kingz, despite having touched down only six days earlier after playing his final Scottish League game for Partick Thistle.



Zoran Matic: "We are a friendly lot."



Allan Crisp

Jet-lag forced his withdrawal 13 minutes from full-time. Ferguson again played well in his second match against Sydney Olympic, but was replaced by Nathan Day, 11 minutes before the final whistle.

It came as a shock to the Force faithful when the 130-game player with Rangers packed his bags and flew out of Adelaide on a Malaysian Airways flight just recently.

Ferguson, it was revealed had been on a three-week trial period with Adelaide City and had decided in favour of accepting an offer to join Scottish second division club Ross County.

Force coach Zoran Matic admitted Ferguson was not happy at being taken off against Olympic. "Everyone has the right to make a comment," the City supremo said.

"We help players to settle in and I think we are a friendly lot...but we will not change our way of doing things."

City's lack of stability is evident in its use of 22 players in its opening 10 games, with only defender Angelo Costanzo starting in all 10 matches.

Korean Dongi Ki Kim also figured in the last 10 fixtures but started as a substitute in the fifth round scoreless draw with Carlton.

There were extenuating circumstances with the prodigious club beset by an unusually high rate of injuries and at other times hit by suspension and national team call-ups at senior, Olyroo and Under 17 level.



Aurelio Vidmar: Prodigal son.

Matic explained that lack of finances dictated his having to trim his squad from the previous season, but that a rush of healthy sponsorships enabled him to develop deeper into the transfer market.

Under 17 international midfielder Scott Tunbridge is a likely recruit after starting to train with the Force last week.

And the arrival of a Yugoslav defender could further boost City's flagging stocks and help to haul it off the bottom of the NSL.

The bright spark amid the gloom came with the return after a distinguished overseas career of prodigal son, Aurelio Vidmar.

The signing of a one-season contract by Italian striker Claudio Pelosi could also prove significant, provided he breaks the habit of collecting yellow cards.

Four bookings in four games was an imperfect record that brought a one match suspension.

ADELAIDE MEMBERS RE-INSTATE "CITY"

It was clearly demonstrated last week that Force members are resistant to change when they executed a back flip that would have made an Olympic gymnast proud by voting to reinstate "City" as the club's official name.

The treble championship winning club will now carry the tag, "Adelaide City Force FC" on its letter head.

About 150 members also defiantly decided that the black and white vertical stripes would remain as the club's home strip.

However, a compromise was reached with one of three proposed away strips being approved to include blue and orange colours on the shoulders.

Approval also was given to purchase Rams Park, the home of the now defunct Adelaide rugby league club from News Limited.

The state-of-the-art facility will enable City to conduct twice-daily training sessions in ideal conditions as the Oakden complex houses an Olympic standard pitch, gymnasium, video room, sleeping quarters and billiard room.



STATE COACHES

Applications are invited for the positions of Year 2000 NSW Soccer Federation Male State Team Coach for the U/14, U/15 and U/16 age group.

The Federation State Teams are an essential part of the Elite Development Program and give our Elite Players the opportunity to advance to the NSWIS, AIS and possible National Representation.

For the Year 2000 the U/14 team will compete in the Friendship Games Tournament to be held in Newcastle the first week of the July school holidays.

The U/15 and U/16 teams will compete in the National Talent Identification Championships to be held at Valentine Sports Park during the second week of the July school holidays.

Coaches applying for this position must hold a current Level 2 (old course) or a Senior Coaching Licence and also be prepared to complete a State Coaching Licence.

Written applications for this position close WED 22 DEC 1999 and should include full details of coaching and playing experience.

Address all correspondence to:

The Manager Coaching and Development
NSW Soccer Federation
PO Box 6024
Blacktown Business Centre NSW 2148

WOLLONGONG NEWS ...

The Wolves youth development work has unearthed two future soccer talents. First from the Colts team Mitchell Prentice - an attacking midfielder - is at present in England, trialing with Middlesbrough for a contract.

The youngster is in good company with Australian goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer playing in the first grade team.

Also in the UK is Steven Dimitrievski from the youth grade team, on tour with the Australian Schoolboy team. He will be missed by his team according to coach Stuart Beedie who is full of praise for the youngster's potential.

Video replay could have shown that the Wolves missed out on a draw in their last game, losing 2-1 to Melbourne Knights.

Striker Esala Masi who came on in the 70th minute as substitute, headed the ball against the inside goal post with the spectators behind the goal claiming the ball was over the line before the Melbourne keeper collected the ball.

Naturally Masi believes it was a goal, however the referee, unsighted, waved play on.

Long time injured Wolves star defender Alvin Ceccoli who returned after a stint in Greece, is now fully fit.

Wolves Matt Horsley and Esala Masi visited recently the House With No Steps and were a big hit. They dropped in to meet the



clients and organised some ball games. Training officer Pauline McEvoy said the visit had been great and everybody loved it. The Wolves might have won a few more fans.

Illawarra Premier League club Gringila Lions with their dynamic President Naume Janeski are one step closer to completion of their grandstand at Crehan Park with special corporate boxes included. For a local soccer club it is a fantastic achievement and their complex is a showpiece in the area.



Esala Masi: It was a goal.

club are sponsored by local companies individually.

The management of the club deserve praise for it.

Totally the Wolves have secured 66 corporate sponsors, a credit to the hard working club staff and Board of Directors.

Vela's Record

Sydney United v Parramatta Power

By John Economos

Continued from front page

Velimir Kupresak, a contract painter during the day and who is married with three young daughters, rises at 5 am.

For the past few months, big 'Vela' has been flat out painting over 60 of the 500 houses at Sydney's recently built Olympic Village for the Games next September.

"They're quite large with four or five bedrooms and three bathrooms," United's skipper informed us.

The Future For United

In the past two League seasons, Kupresak has witnessed a huge exodus of players streaming out from the Club to either retire, be sold overseas and more recently join the Parramatta Power.

Now with new coach David Ratcliffe at the United helm, Kupresak is philosophical about this season.

"Ratcliffe is a good coach and works hard at the game.

"His task has been very difficult in building a new squad.

"But if he can manage to finish the season mid-table, it will be very good and he should be very happy with that.

"It's hard to make a champion team. Any coach needs at least three or four years to have most players together to be able to win something."



Vince Savocca: New recruit playing well.

And what thoughts has the Sydney United captain about Sunday's big local derby against the Parramatta Power?

"It's going to be a very strange match for me, especially as most of the Parramatta players have been my friends and former team-mates.

"Playing against my friends will be a very strange feeling," stated Kupresak.

"But we need a big win after losing our last game to Carlton.

"We played poorly plus made a couple of mistakes in the first half and conceded two very soft goals.

"In the second half we played very well, in fact as good as Carlton.

"We really need another good striker.

"Someone like John Markovski or Francis Awaritefe would be very valuable to us," stated Kupresak.

"So far this season at United we have Eddy Bosnar, Vince Savocca, Tommy Podeljak and Breit Hughes playing well almost every week.

"With time many others will be able to blend in well week after week," ended United's most experienced captain.

On Sunday the gates will open at 4pm and there will be a Jumping Castle for children, a Bucking Bronco competition, plus great prizes.

A \$2,000.00 diamond ring can be won on the day, courtesy of Gregory Jewellers.

Santa Claus will be at the ground to hand out 'giveaways' for the kids, courtesy of 'Fairfield Sportscene' and the 'Australian and British Soccer Weekly'.

Rodriguez and his Mexican band will perform as added entertainment.

All children under 12 will gain free entry to the ground.

Other News From United

Striker Colin Luff played in his first match for United off the bench against Perth



Kresimir Marusic: Best player big Vela has played with.

and again came off the bench in the match against Carlton.

Andy Rakic, a promising 19 year old left back or midfielder from Canberra Deakin, has been registered by United.

Mark Racker has torn his cruciate liga-

ment in his left knee and part of his medial ligament after attempting a cross against Perth and falling awkwardly. He's been forced to undergo a full knee reconstruction and tragically will miss the rest of the season.

Nahuel Arrarte's knee is rapidly recovering following arthroscopic surgery. Nahuel turned 19 on the date of the first Parramatta Power match and following nine first grade appearances, he's already impressed many people.

His first and only NSL goal, proved most valuable, hitting the winner against Adelaide City in Round 6.

Tom Maric was part of the squad that flew to Melbourne for the Carlton match last Friday night.

He returns after having recovered from a most unfortunate work-related incident in which glass shattered in his hands that severed five tendons in his wrist.

Mario Jermen missed the match against Carlton, suffering from abdominal pain that doctors at first failed to diagnose.

John Crawley, United's newly signed goalkeeper, is still recovering from a broken bone to his right wrist, an injury sustained in the very last training session prior to the start of the new season. He failed to notify anyone of his injury and played the first four rounds with his wrist broken.

Crawley will be available for selection early in the new year.



SYDNEY UNITED v PARRAMATTA POWER



SUNDAY DECEMBER 19

Kick-Off at 6pm • Gates Open at 4pm

“BIG SYDNEY DERBY”

ROUND 2 OF 4 CLASHES THIS SEASON

THE FIRST ENDED 1-1 BUT THIS IS THE FIRST MATCH ON UNITED'S HOME TURF



David Ratcliffe



Velimir Kupresak



Tommy Podeljak

A \$2,000 diamond ring will be won on the day courtesy of Gregory Jewellers. Santa Claus will have giveaways for the kids (Courtesy of Fairfield Sportscene and Australian and British Soccer Weekly).

SEE CAPTAIN VELIMIR KUPRESAK BREAK MANIS LAMOND'S RECORD FOR THE MOST NUMBER OF APPEARANCES IN A SYDNEY UNITED JERSEY

KIDS
UNDER 12
FREE ENTRY

And there are jumping castles for the kids, a bucking bronco competition and great prizes.

Rodriguez and his Mexican band will also be performing.

Come to Sydney United Sports Centre (223 Edensor Rd, EDENSOR PARK) to witness some great Soccer action.



Eddy Bosnar



Nahuel Arrarte



Ante Moric

Sydney United proudly sponsored Credex Australia & McGrath Mitsubishi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHERE ARE YOUR BRAINS?

Dear Sir,

When Australian Women's soccer team reached the World Cup finals. Very little television, radio and mass media coverage was given to the Australian Female Soccer team which drew one match and lost the other two.

Male fans weren't interested at all.

When later in 1999, the Australian women's team brought out a girlie calendar, showing most team members in the nude a lot of television and mass media coverage was given to the spunky Australian female soccer team.

Male fans all of a sudden became very interested in them.

What does this say about male fans? Are their brains in their pants?

Kirk Houghton,
Strathfield, NSW.

Kirk, you're right you know. Nobody cared about the Australian Women's team. Now they are the flavour of the moment. That usually happens when you take your clothes off. Oh, you were right about something else too... - Ed.



TOTALLY LET DOWN

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter in disgust at how our incompetent Soccer officials have let down our national team and soccer in general over the past 20 years or more.

While it may not have been entirely our own fault, I have seen, read and heard enough over the past few years to realize why the Asian Confederation and their countries in general shun the Oceania Region with Australia in particular. The latest comments from Basil Scarsella in particular saying, "That with all due respect to Japan and Korea, we only want to play the best in world", are wonderful aren't they? Then we complain that we can't get into any meaningful competitions in between the World Cup campaign. We are, (and have been for quite a while now), being reduced to having to buy games for our senior national team to play and entertain the public.

Once the novelty effect of the new stadium in Sydney wore off after the "All Stars" and the "Manchester United" games, the Brazil games where always headed for a loss to the promoters, even if Ronaldo and Harry Kewell had shown up. The proof was in the number of tickets sold to both games (Sydney 25,000, Melbourne about 10,000) just prior to the gates being thrown open for free. That's why Soccer Australia doesn't get involved with promoting these sorts of exhibition matches anymore, but leaves it up to the private promoters. After what just happened with these two Brazil games which promoter is going to put up his hand to bring out Inter Milan next year (2000) in May with the European Cup Championship just around the corner in June?

So once again our national team will be reduced to scrapping around for a few friendly games in Europe instead of playing in a meaningful Cup Competition in Asia, just like the Europeans will be doing next year.

Our officials and Soccer Administrators in general over the past two decades have avoided the Asian countries like the plague, in favour of Europe and to a lesser extent South America. Instead of concentrating



Basil Scarsella

at what goes on in Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Singapore we concentrate on the English Premier League, the Italian Serie A, the Spanish League etc...

Instead of our players coaches, referees and others wanting to play and coach in Asian countries, we encourage them to look for a rich European club contract, who then won't allow our players to return for National team duties when we need them to. Then we have the gall to complain to FIFA and others that Asia won't allow us and the rest of Oceania into their Continental Cup Competition.

Without knowing all the reasons or details between the two confederations, we must realize that we need Asia more than Asia needs us. For until such time as air travel is reduced down to 5 or 4 hours between Europe and Australia, we have absolutely no hope of joining into Europe's Cup Competition like Turkey and Israel have done. That of course is no less than 20 years away at the earliest, with possibly up to 50 years off.

In the meantime let's not try to be too European like our politicians are and concentrate on getting more involved in Asia who are in our own time zone. (Good for TV rights).

So let's get an expanded "Asia Pacific Cup" up and running in the new millennium with the co-operation of both confederations, with China as the first host in 2004 (if they want it) hosted over four years by a different country. There should be only eight finalists at this stage instead of 16, like Europe has, with all qualifying matches played out the previous year between all of Asia and Oceania countries.

That would be my goal if I was not only Basil Scarsella, but Oceania President Charlie Dempsey as well. It's the only way for us to overcome the problem of meaningful games for our senior national team in between World Cup years.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, QLD.

So much to say, so little space! As a reader of ABSW myself for many years prior to my current role, I have read with curiosity a lot of your letters. This one seems to be not much different from the regular ones. You seem to have so much to say and I must admit I don't always agree with you. Do you really think the Brazil games were always heading for big financial losses? Why would UEFA even consider Australia for European competition — even in 50 years!!! Maybe before your next letter, you should ask yourself these questions before you enlighten ABSW with them. - Ed

CLUBS SHOULD TAKE CHARGE

Dear Sir,

From time to time I write to Radio or TV stations and daily newspapers, complaining about the lack of soccer coverage in their sport news sections.

Their answer is the same — they have no time to chase the clubs. If the clubs have any news, they should contact the media.

I wonder, how many clubs are actually doing that? I don't think too many, yet we are constantly complaining about the lack of coverage of our favourite sport.

Most clubs nowadays employ

full-time office staff. Part of their job should be to keep in touch regularly with the media and pass on club news such as who is injured, who is coming back from injury, any new players training with the club etc...

So come on club officials, put a little more effort into it.

R. Forrai,
Roseville, NSW

Speaking from a position where club news is available to me I can only agree with you partially. Some clubs are absolutely fantastic. They send all relevant materi-

al, regular updates and are constantly in touch and giving regular support.

Unfortunately, some clubs are totally the opposite. So in your opinion which clubs will be easier to support in the form of exposure?

Just also bear in mind that the mainstream commercial media are not angels either and they would receive the same information as ABSW and they choose not to use it. It's not always the clubs to blame. Maybe you should get up the mainstream media. - Ed

RETRACTION

ABSW would like to retract a comment made in last week's edition under the banner of "Second Rate Socceroos". The letter writer, R. Melor of Bondi, NSW claims that he did not intend to call Kevin Muscat a thug, but a forceful player. ABSW apologises to Mr Muscat and his family for the error.

Send letters to Australian and British Soccer Weekly

PO Box 155
Marrickville NSW 2204 or fax (02) 9550 9332
or e-mail to: soccerweekly@hotmail.com

WHERE ARE THE GOAL POSTS?

Dear Sir,

It is on again. Tony gave us the Thompson Files and a Senate enquiry, David gave us Ethnic Cleansing and the marvellous Channel 7 deal, now we are in for some Woolley thinking.

Please David persuade the Commissioners to leave it at 16 teams.



David Woolley: Some persuading to do.

plies - Stability, Management responsibility and Market forces!

No one in their right mind would invest in our great game without stability. Soccer Australia changing the position of the goal posts every season is not stability.

How can you plan and manage a Team, Club or business if Soccer Australia has the right to suddenly decide at any time that you are out of business.

Finally lets get down to Market forces.

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Start in 2000, review in 2005. No bad publicity, no Legal fees, and maybe we might get lucky and get SBS back too.

Tony Martin

Mountain Creek Qld

Sounds like you speak from the heart, but don't you think the NSL will be a stronger competition with fewer teams?

If it's a stronger competition you get better crowds. With better crowds you can attract more sponsors. That means more money.

What a vicious circle!! I do agree with you though that the fans should have some say in the make up of the competition. As to the extent of that say, your guess is as good as mine. - Ed

PLAYER PROFILE

ABSW STAR PROFILE

BOB CATLIN

Name:	Bob Catlin
Nickname:	Rookwood
Date of Birth:	June 22, 1965 in England
Height:	190cm
Weight:	98kgs
Eye Colour:	Green
Hair Colour:	Brown
Occupation:	Parcel Contractor
Employer:	Australia Post Contractor
Hobbies/Interests:	Relaxing with family
Year Joined:	1998/99
Position:	Keeper
Previous Clubs:	APIA: 81-85, Marconi: 87-93, 94-97, Notts County: 93-94, Sydney Olympic: 97-98
Representative Honours:	NSW: 90-93, National team: 91 & 94
NYL Games prior to 1999/2000:	264
Major Injuries:	Nil
Ambitions:	To play as long as possible

Information courtesy of the Newcastle Breakers Souvenir Programme available from the 'Jersey Joint' at Breakers Stadium.

By Greg Danvers

Newcastle Breakers custodian Bob Catlin, all 190 centimetres and 98 kilos of him, is closing in on 300 NSL appearances.

Catlin was recruited by Lee Sterrey, in his first season as coach of the Breakers, at the beginning of the 1998-99 season having played 257 NSL games.

Last season he played 27 of 28 matches and has played all 11 games so far this season to be currently on 295 NSL appearances.

The 300th NSL milestone, injuries or lack of them, will roll around in round 17 at home against the Adelaide Force.

Newcastle supporters have accepted Bob as one of



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Bob Catlin: Complete dedication.

their own with the southern hill being dubbed the unofficial 'Bob Catlin Hill'.

At the first home game of this season the Breakers had warmed up on the northern end of the pitch prior to the 2-2 with Wollongong Wolves but after the toss changed ends and as Catlin was walking down to take up his position in the southern goal the supporters roared and waved the 'Bob Catlin Hill' banner much to his delight.

Arms stretched high and a wide smile spread across his face. A familiar scene at home matches as he makes his way to the southern end of the field.

The dedication to the game with the big fella is undying as he spends many long hours in his normal week working and then training with the squad.

Living and working on Sydney's North Shore and travelling to Newcastle for training make the days very long.

Bob Catlin's day begins around three in the morning when he gets up to be at work by four am delivering parcels for Australia Post.

Home for lunch around half past one, maybe a swim at Collaroy then back in the car to pick-up Andy Harper, at St Ives. They then meet up with John Buonavoglia for the two hour trip up the freeway to Breakers Stadium. This happens three days a week for training and repeated for Friday home matches.

After training he gets back to Collaroy Plateau not much before 11 o'clock. Now that's dedication!

The Breakers had their best season last year placing eighth on 40 points, five outside the six, but more importantly arrested an errant poor goals conceded tally. Much of the credit goes to Bob Catlin.

Granted the back four became a miserly unit but the direction and marshalling behind them of Catlin and his strength not only in the air but his agility across the ground were contributing factors.

With the experience and guidance Catlin gives to the young side and you have an all-

round clubman.

Peter Juchniewicz, a youngster on the way up told the ABSW in a previous interview, "I have learnt so much off him (Catlin) in the last few months. He might get up me on the field but I would rather that than he say nothing at all."

The hard work of 1998-99 was repaid with players' player and supporters' club-player-of-the-year awards.

Bob Catlin will reach his 300 NSL milestone on Friday January 21, 2000 against Adelaide Force, barring injury, at Breakers Stadium.

He would have joined the 300 club a week earlier but the round 16 match against NSL Champions South Melbourne has been postponed due to their World Club Champions quest.

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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

PARRAMATTA POWER 0
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1

By John Economos

Travis Dodd, the Newcastle Breakers' attacking right midfielder in the 63rd minute fired an absolutely immaculate diagonal flat through ball from the right flank to allow his diminutive striker John Buonavoglia to most comfortably score the sole and winning goal against the Parramatta Power last Friday night at the Parramatta Stadium.

Dodd's magnificent geometrically measured smooth ball for Buonavoglia, had the class and maturity of a Trevor Brooking pass seen so often in the 80s for West Ham and England.

Despite the possession the Power had in the first session, the defiant Breakers in unison, quickly broke up all attempted attacks.

The Power's striker Jon Angelucci managed one volley and well on target, but Newcastle's very experienced custodian Bobby Cailin, had the 'cigars out' to make the save look so easy.

On the half hour mark the ponytailed Newcastle midfielder Andy Roberts suddenly burst into the box from the right firing towards goal. But the Power's towering goalie Andrew Crews quickly deflected the danger into the side netting.

Two minutes from the break the Breakers counter-attacked as Buonavoglia broke clear and into the Power's box. However lateral defender Milan Blagojevic came across to elegantly freeze the ball from the Newcastle striker's firing boot.

Four minutes after 'drinks' the Power's lethal international marksman Mile Sterjovski from 12 metres, blasted inches over the horizontal, whilst his team-mate and right back Peter Bennett rocked the cross bar five minutes later.

In the dying seconds of the match, the Power almost 'levelled the books' following a corner fired in from the right. Veteran central midfielder Steve Berry powered his header towards the target but the missile barely scraped over Cailin's 'roof'.

Newcastle's hard earned victory was due almost entirely to the disciplined and well organised hard yards quickly put in collectively, especially by the defiant flat-four of Shane Pryce, Todd McManus and the two Glenns (Moore and Sprod).

The Novocastrian 'gear-box' of Travis Dodd, Mark Wilson, Andy Roberts and Brad Wieczorek, were very quick and hungry with their shutdowns, thus repeatedly and swiftly breaking up all attempted raids by the Power to attack.

Such quick shut downs produced a choking effect on Parramatta's midfield which in turn led to a starvation of ball supply getting to the Power's twin strike-force of Mile Sterjovski and Jon Angelucci.

Ironically, Newcastle deliberately planned to allow Parramatta to have an extra man in midfield, relying on one of their back four men to break forward to nail a potential runner.

The longer the match went on, the tighter Newcastle's lines galvanised.



John Buonavoglia:

Scored the winner. with which we did little to express ourselves, but when it came to push and shove, it was never going to be a pretty match to watch. We were confident to soak up all the 'bombs' in the last 15 minutes as I've got three big guys down the back to handle all that stuff. 'Moore (Glenn) has made a huge difference down the back. This was a battle that you had to get down in the trenches.

"But I was a little disappointed with our possession

express ourselves, but when it came to push and shove, it was never going to be a pretty match to watch. We were confident to soak up all the 'bombs' in the last 15 minutes as I've got three big guys down the back to handle all that stuff. 'Moore (Glenn) has made a huge difference down the back. This was a battle that you had to get down in the trenches.

"I took 'Harps' (Andy Harper) off when he signalled that he had picked up a twinge in his hammy, but collectively we did a very good job," ended the young coach.

Meanwhile the Power's understandably disappointed boss, David Mitchell, evaluated. "We had a few chances in the first half and I felt that overall we had at least four players that shouldn't pick up a pay cheque this week which I'm bitterly disappointed with.

"Our 17-year-old Thompson (Matt) came on and was always looking for the ball whereas no one else did. We couldn't break them down and we haven't made it yet.

"They defended very deep which made it hard to break them down and we watched them defend the ball and didn't challenge them hard enough. We need to go six or seven weeks undefeated. Tonight, only Milan (Blagojevic) and Crews (Andrew) did well," Mitchell ended.

CARLTON SC 3
SYDNEY UNITED 1

By Bert van Bedaf

Carlton demolished a modest Sydney United with a devastating first half, which netted three goals, beating the red shirts 3-1 at Olympic Park last Friday night to go second on the ladder.

United scored in injury time, but slumped to their sixth loss for the season, possibly putting coach David Ratcliffe's future in doubt.

"I suppose they (United committee) could be sharpening the knives now," Ratcliffe said none too cryptically after the game.

No doubt, it will also be an encounter United captain Velimir Kupresak will care to forget, even though it was his 238th NSL match, since the Sydney outfit was largely outclassed by a more polished Carlton that lapsed badly later in the second half.

Neither coach was pleased with his team's display.

"We threw it away with the second goal. You can point the finger at a lot of things, but the second goal was disappointing," Ratcliffe said.

"The second and third were poor goals to concede. It is demoralising.

"But at least we didn't roll over and die. In the second half we had the better of the chances. We didn't throw in the towel. We didn't put up the white flag. If we'd rolled over, we could have lost by seven or eight goals."

Carlton coach Stuart Munro said. "It was a shocking game for us. We set our standards a lot higher than what we showed tonight. We did do enough to get us through the game comfortably, but there's no player who can put his hand on his heart and say he had a good game.

"We didn't do too well in the first half and it seemed in the second half we just went through the motions. Our defence also got sloppy in the end.

"Hopefully the team learned their lesson, with South Melbourne coming up next week," he said.

Nevertheless, it took the Blues only eight minutes to get the better of Sydney United with a fluent spell on the left by Stuart Slater to create the opening goal.

The English winger, back after eight weeks through injury, threaded the ball through to John Markovski inside the box. The burly forward unleashed a shot that United 'keeper spilled, leaving an alert Alex Moreira to tap home his eighth goal for the season.

Referee David Dwight introduced a few moments of confusion and hilarity after 18 minutes, when he appeared to book Carlton stopper David McPherson on advice of linesman Senko Rastocic. Dwight first raised a red card, put it back in his pocket and produced a yellow, but put that one away as well after consulting Rastocic. As a result McPherson wasn't booked at all.

Stuart later explained David Termelino had left the field for treatment to an injury. He'd come back on without attracting the referee's attention.

He was the player that should have been given a yellow card, but the referee and the linesmen could not positively identify the player and decided not to issue a card at all.

Markovski shut United out of the match with two quick goals before the break. Hughes reacted poorly on a backpass with a bad clearance, which fell for Markovski. The experienced finisher buried his shot in the far corner for Carlton's second goal.

Slater, who put in a sparkling half, was also instrumental in creating the third goal four minutes before half-time.

After he was fouled following a teasing run on the right, Termelino took a curling free-kick on the goal line halfway between the goal and corner, enabling Markovski to bundle the ball over the line through a floundering United defence.

Carlton also dominated the second half, but failed to capitalise on its chances. Moreira belted the ball well over the bar from close range in the 63rd minute and headed over the bar in the 76th. Mike Conroy, on for Markovski in the 65th, almost got on the score sheet for the first time this season with a powerful header from a McPherson cross. But Hughes was in the right spot for a confident save.

But the battling Sydney team earned a well-deserved consolation goal three minutes into injury time.

Tom Maric, on for Ante Moric at half time, released Ray Younis, on for Pondeyak in the 80th minute. The substitute scooped the ball on the run, lobbing a napping Anastasiadis who was too far off his line. But the goal came too late for United to mount a bigger challenge.

CANBERRA COSMOS 1
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3

By Graham Cooke

"Horses for courses" was the satisfied comment from Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina after his team had pushed their way to the pinnacle of the National Soccer League on Friday night, with a 3-1 win over Canberra Cosmos at Bruce Stadium.

The week previous Chris Kalantzis had played a scoring and starring role in Olympic's 2-0 win over Adelaide Force. On Friday he did not leave the bench. How could this be?

Culina, who seems to have found the Midas touch in recent weeks could have answered simply by asking the questioner to check the score.

Instead he said the role Kalantzis had played at home against the Force, was redundant away at the Cosmos.

"Tonight I had someone who could do what Chris couldn't do," he said. "I have learnt from last season when we would win a game, and try to live off it for the next four weeks.

"There is no such thing as not changing a winning side any more."

There was no doubt Olympic's class in the first half.

Canberra's Jason Polak might have given the home side the lead

had he been able to

find more power with his shot after gliding past Ante Juric and Lindsay Wilson, but after that

the action was predominantly at the other end.

Peter Zorbas' cross passed harmlessly across the face of the Cosmos goal and Pablo Cardozo hit the post before Olympic took the lead in the 34th minute. Wilson carved up the defence with a decisive pass to Gabriel Mendez whose deft touch saw the ball into the back of the net.

On the stroke of half time Olympic went 2-0 up when Mendez broke though again and goalkeeper Grant Barlow's lunge upended him. Referee Simon Micallef awarded the penalty and a caution to the goalkeeper, then Pablo Cardozo scored from the spot.

Four minutes into the second half David Arranz, the youngest player in the Cosmos line-up, allowed the home supporters some cause to hope with the goal of the night: he collected the ball outside the penalty area, a clever feint gave Marcus Phillips the slip, then a curling shot which cleared George Bouhoussos, found the top corner of the net.

It was Canberra's best passage of the game, but they could gain no further reward. Instead it was Olympic who put the seal on the game when Scott Baillie did what the three Cosmos defenders around him could not do and collected a free kick from Mendez, heading firmly past Barlow.

Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni paid tribute to his opponents. "They are a very good team running into form," he said.

"I was disappointed at the way we let them dictate how the game was played in the first half. There was no initiative and we allowed ourselves to be second to everything."

"However, we battled back after the interval, scored a good goal and might have been a shade unlucky with a penalty appeal just before they scored the third."

He said he had been happy with the first-up performance of Paul Roberts, who has returned to the club after trialling for a number of teams in Britain.

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 1
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2

By Allan Crisp

"It's time to face the music." Those prophetic words uttered by shattered City coach Zoran Matic said it all after his team had succumbed to a shock early goal and a late winning strike from the marauding Wolves.

Master coach Matic, who had guided City to three National Soccer League championships, was at a loss to explain his team's woeful 1999/2000 record of one win from 11 outings.

Asked if he felt under pressure from his detractors after his team's nightmare run, deflated Matic said, "I can't promise anything, we have to try to make our defence more water proof. We have no option."

Wollongong coach Nick Theodorakopoulos was sympathetic towards Matic during the low key post match press conference saying, "There's a fine line between success and failure."

"I'd like to say that the timing of our goals was planned, but I can't."

"I knew that this was going to be a tough game and it certainly was for us in the second half," Theodorakopoulos said.

When Saso Petrovski capitalised on a City defensive blunder to shove the Wolves into the lead after just 42 seconds after kick-off, the smallest Hindmarsh Stadium crowd of the season (3764) was stunned into silence.

That Wollongong success precipitated some of the best free flowing passages of play witnessed on the lush Hindmarsh turf this season.

With former Arsenal apprentice Stuart Young and Petrovski menacing up front and ex-Melbourne Knights defender David Cervinska hanging out the stop sign at the back, the Wolves looked set for a pre-Christmas feast.

The Wolves dominance was such that goalkeeper Les Pogliacomi was not called on to touch the ball until the 14th minute of the then one-sided match when he leapt to grab a left wing cross from Michael Cartwright.

But battered pride and a stinging half-time address from Matic changed the complexion of the contest from the start of the second half as he introduced Nick Sabljak for out of sorts midfielder Brad Hassell.

City's gun striker Damjan Mori passed a fitness test on a hamstring injury to play, but Nathan Day was sidelined through an Achilles complaint.

Sabljak's impact was immediate as he teamed with former Socceroo Aurelio Vidmar and returning Korean flank defender Dongi Ki Kim.

The vagaries of the match were amplified in the 60th minute when the Wolves, who deserved to be three goals in front on the basis of their withering first half display, surrendered their advantage to a freak goal from Claudio Pelosi.

City's Italian import capitalised on a smooth build-up from Vidmar and Kim, with an attempted hitch-kick on goal which translated onto a miss-kick, but Pelosi luckily got a second bite of the cherry to clip the ball past Pogliacomi.

Young, out of sight, but not out of mind for most of the second half, almost clinched the points for the Wolves in the 73rd minute, but Vilson Knezevic made a fine save.

Knezevic earlier was in the limelight 10 minutes before half-time when he bravely raced off his line to rip the ball off Paul Reid as the youngster charged into the box.

A late concerted thrust from the Force threatened to keep the home team's flagging finals hopes flickering, but Cervinska, the last injury-free Alvin Ceccoli and ex-Youth Socceroo Robbie Stanton held firm.

However, the same was not true of the City defence as it wilted under a last gasp raid with Scott Chipperfield clipping a shot under the diving Knezevic to maintain the Wolves finals rage.

Theodorakopoulos made full use of his impressive list of substitutes, Noel Spencer, Esala Masi and Neil Harlock, while Matic kept one of his bench warmers, Carl Veart, inactive.

Sabljak's input was immense and the 66th minute introduction of Carlo Talladira for Joey midfielder Louis Brain, enabled Vidmar to switch from defensive midfielder to the better suited attacking role.

Sadly for the Force, an 88th minute booking will bring a suspension for Vidmar, forcing him out of the City line-up for this week's away clash with Northern Spirit.

TURN TO PAGE 32 MATCH STATISTICS

TOWARDS SYDNEY 2000

AT A GLANCE

Full Name: Jacob Goeffrey Burns
 Club: Parramatta Power
 Date Of Birth: 21st April 1978
 Left or right footed: Right
 Eye Colour: Hazel
 Hair Colour: Dark Brown
 Height: 177cm
 Weight: 75kg
 Positions Played: Midfield/Defender

THE STATS

Olyroo (Under-23) Appearances: 16
 (Vs Country)
 Olyroo Goals (Vs Country): 0
 National Representative Honours (other): LG Socceroos
 Number of Seasons with current Club: 1st
 Clubs Played for (current first): Parramatta Power, Sydney United
 Junior Clubs: St George, Sydney Olympic, Bankstown
 Age I started playing soccer: 7

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight to date: Representing Australia against Manchester United
 Biggest Achievement to date: Representing my country
 Ambition: To keep playing, and hopefully get overseas

PERSONALITY

Favourite Band: Red Hot Chilli Peppers
 List 5 CDs you couldn't live without: Di Angelo - "Brown Sugar", Maxwell - "Embria", Red Hot Chilli Peppers - "Californication", Bob Marley - "Best Of", Lauren Hill - "Miseducation Of..."
 Favourite Comedian: Eddie Murphy
 Last Book read: Paul Gascoigne's Autobiography
 Favourite Band/Singer: Red Hot Chilli Peppers
 Favourite Nightclub: The Basement in Sydney
 Favourite Food: Thai
 Favourite Drink: Red Wine
 Favourite TV Show: Seinfeld
 Favourite TV Character: Bugs Bunny
 A dinner party for 6, and you can invite anybody living, dead, fact or fiction - who do you invite: Bill Gates, Michael Jordan, Jennifer Lopez, Eddie Murphy, Tiger Woods, Gabriel Batistuta.
 What do you serve for 3 courses: entree: BBQ prawns. Can you barbecue prawns?: main: seafood - they can be barbecued as well; dessert: chocolate mousse

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Rivaldo
 Favourite Overseas Team: Barcelona
 Most Admired Australian (based OS): Mark Viduka
 Most Admired Defender: Marcel Desailly
 Most Admired Midfielder: Roy Keane
 Most Admired Striker: Alessandro Del Piero
 Most Admired Goalkeeper: Mark Bosnich
 Hardest Opponent (player): Ryan Giggs (Manchester United)
 Hardest Opponent team: Manchester United
 Dream choice of which world league: Spanish
 Major influences: My parents
 Goal you want to achieve before you retire: Play to my full potential, and nothing short of it.
 Words of advice: "Stay cool, calm and collected."

Olyroo file #6

JACOB BURNS

Q: How do you think Sydney 2000 could change your life?

A: This is the biggest event in anyone's sporting career, no matter which sport they are involved in and the fact that it's being played in my home town tops everything off.

I think this experience will change my life in many ways, whether it be going and playing overseas after the event, or increasing my profile within Australia.

The Games are watched globally, and it's a childhood dream to represent your country at this level, it's something that everyone thinks about once in their life, and for me to be this close to that achievement is kind of unbelievable.

Q: Is there any public reaction/recognition to you yet? Are you a recognized figure with the fans?

A: Yes I am, as both a Parramatta Power player, and an LG Under-23. At our local games, the young kids and their parents are continually wishing me luck if there's an upcoming Olyroo tour or game, and the recognition is continuing to build via the amount of promotion the Club does, through shopping centre and school appearances.

It's definitely building, and as we play more and more games, and get closer to the actual event, a lot more people will recognize who you are, and who you're playing for.

Q: Why will the Olyroos perform well at Sydney 2000?

A: Well, for starters, Australia as a sporting nation is right up there. Soccer, especially at the junior levels is also right up there, and when it comes to this team, we've got a great blend of players, a good mix of overseas based and locally based players who get very well.

Add to this that the coaching staff and managerial staff are doing a great job and are making our job on and off the field easier, plus the home crowd behind us, and it all adds up to a great medal chance.

Q: How did you find the recent camp in Tunisia, and how was it different from previous Camps?

A: Tunisia is actually quite a strong soccer nation and it's always a



Jacob Burns: Has the will to win.

good experience playing different countries and seeing what you're up against.

There wasn't actually too much to do over there except play soccer, which wasn't a bad thing as we were able to fully concentrate on the games at hand, with our mind always on the job.

The second game was a bit disappointing due to the refereeing and didn't prove to be such a good spectacle, but that was also a very handy experience to have.

Q: Pressure is obviously mounting, with the final squad of 18 to be named in around 7 months ... how are your fellow players - and competitors for spots - starting to react to this?

A: All the players are aware of how hard it is going to be in the end to make the final squad but I think everyone's dealing with it quite well. Everyone has a good relationship in the team and everyone's working hard to get results.

At the same time, you're up

against a good mate vying for the same position, but all it can do is benefit the team as a whole, because with a couple of people fighting for the one position, everyone is striving harder to achieve more. In the end, it's going to be difficult to make the final cut, but everyone should look at it as a great achievement to have made the squads so far

Q: What motivates you?

A: The will to win - I hate losing and I'm not a very good loser, so that's pretty good motivation to win.

Q: What inspires you?

A: A combination of crowd, atmosphere, scoring a goal, sometimes my fellow team-mates doing well, and of course, the will to win

Q: Mile Sterjovski is both a Parramatta Power team-mate and an LG Under-23 team-mate - does it help, particularly mentally when you have to talk things through,

having him around?

A: Very much so - Mile is a great friend and team mate in both teams, and we look to each other for support, both at Club or National level.

It's easier when we travel because we know each other so well and we also have a very good understanding on the field.

Mentally, we both feel the pressure from playing in both teams, the ups and downs, and we're there for each other because we're both going through the same things

Q: How would you describe yourself as a player, and where (and why) do you fit into the Olyroo Squad?

A: Aggressive, determined and smart would be three words I would use to describe myself in action, and I fit in for those factors - I'm determined to do well, I have a great will to win, and play as a team-player among other good players.

Q: What are you hoping to achieve personally over the next 12 months?

A: A few things actually - to make the Olympic squad, to also have a successful year with my new club Parramatta Power, and in the next 12 months, I'd like to think I can go and try my luck overseas - it's a new challenge, something I've always wanted to see if I have the ability to do, and to challenge myself at another level

Q: Finally, is there any particular team that you are looking to face at the Olympic Games, and why?

A: Brazil would be a team I'd like to face again - we beat them when they came out last year over three matches, and with that country being held in such high regard when it comes to soccer, it would be a big challenge - and maybe we could avenge the Joeys Final loss in the Under 17s'

Feature courtesy of Soccer Australia media department.
 Already profiled: Brett Emerton, Steven Laybutt, Lucas Neill, Michael Cucicja and Nick Rizzo

"I'm not a very good loser, so that's pretty good motivation to win."

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

BRISBANE STRIKERS 0
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane Strikers slipped from their perch at the top of the national league when they went down 1-0 to Gippsland Falcons in a rain marred clash at Suncorp Stadium last Saturday night.

Former Queensland striker Brian MacNicol grabbed the 26th minute winner when he glanced a header off a cross floated into the box past flu ridden Strikers' keeper Clint Bolton.

Gippsland had clearly dominated the early part of the first half but ironically their game breaker came against the run of play following a strong mid-half rally from the homeside.

Gippsland took the early initiative from the Strikers who were expected to start full of fire following their shock 2-1 loss the previous round to coach John Kosmina's former club Newcastle Breakers.

However, it was Gippsland with midfielder John Hutchinson having two chances and striker Juan Nilo another in the opening 10 minutes who dominated.

Gippsland's early ascendancy was in stark contrast to the Strikers who took 22 minutes for their first scoring chance.

The Strikers, who held a four point lead a fortnight ago, produced a performance well below their best with constant rain proving to be the leveller on the night.

Gippsland were obviously intent on playing for a draw from the outset but once they got their surprise lead, they pulled every man back in defence except for a solitary striker.

The congestion proved overwhelming for Brisbane who must learn how to handle defensive orientated sides if they are to continue their sensational season so far.

The Strikers' first test on Gippsland keeper Bojo Jevdjevic came off a long range speculator from midfielder David Pilic who attempted to inspire his team after their lethargic start.

If Pilic was trying to be inspirational then it worked as the Strikers lifted, albeit only for a few minutes.

Midfielder Jeremy Harris blasted a clear chance from inside the box over the crossbar a minute later before Jevdjevic pulled off one of two superb saves low to his left after the best passage of play in the match.

The movement started from inside the Strikers' half and ended with striker Paul Foster glancing a header from a cross from Peter Dwyer to forward Peter Grierson who in turn sent a pass across to Harris for his low strike on goal.

Strikers' fans were hoping the movement, which brought their applause, was the start of a revival until MacNicol's sting a minute later.

Gippsland were unlucky not to increase their lead two minutes before halftime when Nilo pressured defender Glenn Gwynne into a rare error and then outpaced him before striking his shot onto the crossbar.

The rain cleared after the break but not so the cobwebs for the Strikers.

The Strikers dominated the second half but it wasn't until the final 10 minutes that they had a real chance to draw level.

Fullback Nick Meredith fired in a neat cross into the box for Dwyer on 80 minutes but his glancing header sailed marginally wide of the upright.

With six minutes of normal time remaining and every Gippsland player defending, Grierson struck a thundering 30 metre volley, which was spectacularly saved by a diving Jevdjevic.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
NORTHERN SPIRIT 1

By Bert van Bedaf

The Melbourne Knights suffered their first setback under new coach Vlado Vanis.

After two wins on the trot, the Knights lost 1-0 at home to the Northern Spirit, who recorded their second win in a row, in an otherwise ordinary match.

Tony Perinich headed home the winning goal in the 83rd minute after a lapse of concentration in the Knights' defence.

Troy Cranney crossed the ball into the box, where Graham Arnold headed it on to Perinich, who'd come on for Abbas Saad in the 67th minute. Left unmarked, the substitute headed home from close range, past Knights' keeper Martin John, who had no chance of saving it.

In a rather uneventful encounter, the tight tussle between Arnold and Knights' stopper Murtala Abbas provided an entertaining focal point.

With a one-year contract in the bag after a three-month trial, the tall Nigerian stuck close to Spirit's player-coach for most of the match.

But a brief lapse of concentration in the Knights' defence gave Arnold enough space to provide the vital flick-on.

The experienced veteran and former Socceroo had moved from sweeper last week to striker, because of the absence of Robbie Slater, who is suffering from a bad foot injury and had been playing with painkilling injections for the last three weeks.

"We can't always play pretty football, but at the end of the day we had a win and we came away with three points," Spirit assistant coach Ian Crook said. Crook was standing in for Arnold who was already taking a shower to catch the 9pm flight home.

"Two wins in a row is what we needed. We've now won three out of our last four matches and that's given the players a lot of confidence. We're a third of the way around the corner, but there's still a long way to go," Crook said by way of illustrating the club's determined bid to make the finals at the end of the home-and-away season.

The mood in the Knights' camp lacked spirit after their anti-climactic loss. "I don't know what was wrong with my team today," deflated Knights' coach Vlado Vanis said.

"They didn't do the job the way we said we would do it. Some players dropped 80 per cent," he said.

The players lost concentration in the second half and the Northern Spirit scored a goal. It's as simple as that," he ended.

Few chances went either way in the first half. Jack Sobczyk headed over the bar for the Spirit. Knights' striker Ivan Kelic had a lame shot saved by Spirit's keeper John Perosh. Knights' keeper Martin John saved diving at the feet of Abbas Saad and Jason Vukadin blocked a Graham Arnold shot in the first 25 minutes.

Michael Reda met an Alex Kiratzoglou cross in the 32nd minute, but his shot went wide. A Philip Moss cross went across the face of goal without Arnold being able to connect.

Kiratzoglou showed quality by feeding several good crosses into the area from the right, but neither Kelic nor Adrian Cervinski capitalised on the opportunities.

Cervinski nearly got a shot on goal nine minutes into the second half, but Dean Culina blocked strongly and Perosh easily saved the deflection.

The Spirit rarely threatened in a pedestrian performance.

Arnold managed to head-on a cross by Philip Moss in the 68th minute, but Perinich put his shot well over the bar from close range before becoming the match winner.

Perosh denied Cervinski the ball from a Paul Magdic cross with a diving save in the 75th minute. But with seven minutes left, Perinich provided his side with the much-needed result that has pushed the Sydney side a rung further up the national league ladder.

PERTH GLORY 3
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1

By Richard Kreider

South Melbourne coach Ange Postecoglou must be wondering what it takes to overcome Perth Glory at Perth Oval after yet another defeat last Sunday, although having your goalkeeper sent-off after 25 minutes certainly wouldn't have helped.

"I thought it was shaping up to be a good match up until the red card," said Postecoglou.

"After that it became an artificial game and certainly not one of our most memorable ones," he said.

The 3-1 result is a fourth home win for Glory against the defending champions, while the actual head to head tally now stands at 4-2 to the Perth side with one draw. It is also a fourth league victory in a row for Glory who are now looking ominous.

"We are very happy to have achieved a comfortable win against the best team in Australia," said Glory coach Bernd Stange.

"We were very aggressive in the first half where we won about 80 per cent of the individual battles and succeeded in upsetting South Melbourne's pattern of play which is combinational soccer and keeping possession as long as possible. So while they were panicking we always had our game under control," said Stange.

Referee Mark Shield was kept busy throughout the match, handing out a total seven yellow cards on top of a red to Milan Udvaracz for allegedly spitting at Glory striker Alistair Edwards who denied provoking the Melbourne custodian.

"Whether you are provoked or not, no-one deserves to be spat on," said Edwards.

For the first time since Perth first started in the National Soccer League in 1996/97, a home game was played in rain, albeit a brief shower at the start. It was the match itself however, that hotted up from as early as the first 15 second mark when Glory defender Rob Trajkovski was cautioned for an blatant trip on Steve Losifidis. The game opened at a frantic pace with the home side looking the more likely to break through.

This they achieved in the 18th minute when a curling right-side centre from Trajkovski was headed powerfully and cleverly past Udvaracz by Edwards.

Seven minutes later, both Edwards and Udvaracz were involved again with the 'keeper given his marching orders for the spitting and pushing incident; which as a consequence presented the home side with a penalty.

Understandably, the referee's action's did not go down too well with the Melbourne team who kept up their protests for almost four minutes. When the dust eventually settled, Bobby Despotovski had little trouble in converting the spot-kick past Goutzioulis, arguably the smallest player in the South Melbourne side.

Kasey Wehrman was replaced for the second half because of an ankle knock after collecting a series of strong challenges, but the Socceroo should be fit in time for Friday's away clash at Newcastle Breakers. Troy Halpin is also expected to return to the side after a mystery illness that prevented him from training two days before the game.

Despite playing a 10-man side, Glory continually struggled to take a stranglehold of the match. Con Boutsaris finished off what defender Jamie Harnwell set up to make it 3-0 in the 52nd minute effort from a Trajkovski corner, but the Melbourne rearguard composure of captain Fausto De Amicis, Nick Orlic and Con Blatsis prevented the home side from inflicting a cricket score.

Souths pulled one back after almost an hour's play when substitute John Carbone foolishly gave away the ball to Lozanovski deep inside his own half.

The talented forward wasted no time in picking out John Anastasidis lurking at the far post to stab the ball past Jason Petkovic.

MARCONI STALLIONS 0
AUCKLAND KINGZ 3

By John Economos

The Auckland Kingz, the National League's fledgling club, last Saturday night with a hungry and well disciplined display, totally outclassed Marconi 0-3 at the Marconi Stadium to edge themselves two spots up the League ladder and into eighth position.

A first-half goal from midfielder Dino Mennillo plus two in the second session from experienced striker Freddie De Jong and late substitute Riki Van Steedman, sealed Marconi's demise.

It could have been worse for Marconi as on the half hour mark Kingz' ace player-coach Wynton Rufer, fed De Jong into the clear, but from eight metres the former Marconi striker blasted over the top.

Six minutes later the Kiwis first drew blood through a well-drilled, criss-cross move. Mennillo scored with a downward header after the fabulous Rufer from the back post headed back across goals an Ivan Vicielich cross, fired in from the right.

Within a minute from the break, Middleby for the Kingz, then Duric for Marconi were each denied goals with well-timed tackles inside the respective boxes.

As the match progressed the Kingz grew in stature and discipline and tightened their grip on the game through a second goal by the industrious De Jong.

The Kingz' 35-year-old towering, hard running striker and former Marconi player, Freddie De Jong, last Friday night had turned up at training in Auckland, nostalgically wearing his 1988 Marconi playing shirt to gee-up his teammates for Saturday's battle.

De Jong's jesting action simultaneously proved inspirational for his team, as well as for himself when he nailed the Kingz' second goal in the 64th minute, out-climbing Marconi's marker Dominic Longo to head into the net a Marcus Stergiopoulos cross fired in from the left.

Defender Riki Van Steedman scored his first goal in the National League with his very first touch as he deflected a flat cross blasted in by the Kingz' other substitute Jonathan Perry, and into the target.

The New Zealanders' victory was thoroughly deserved, coming via a disciplined and collective quality input whilst Marconi became more individual and vulnerable as the duel progressed.

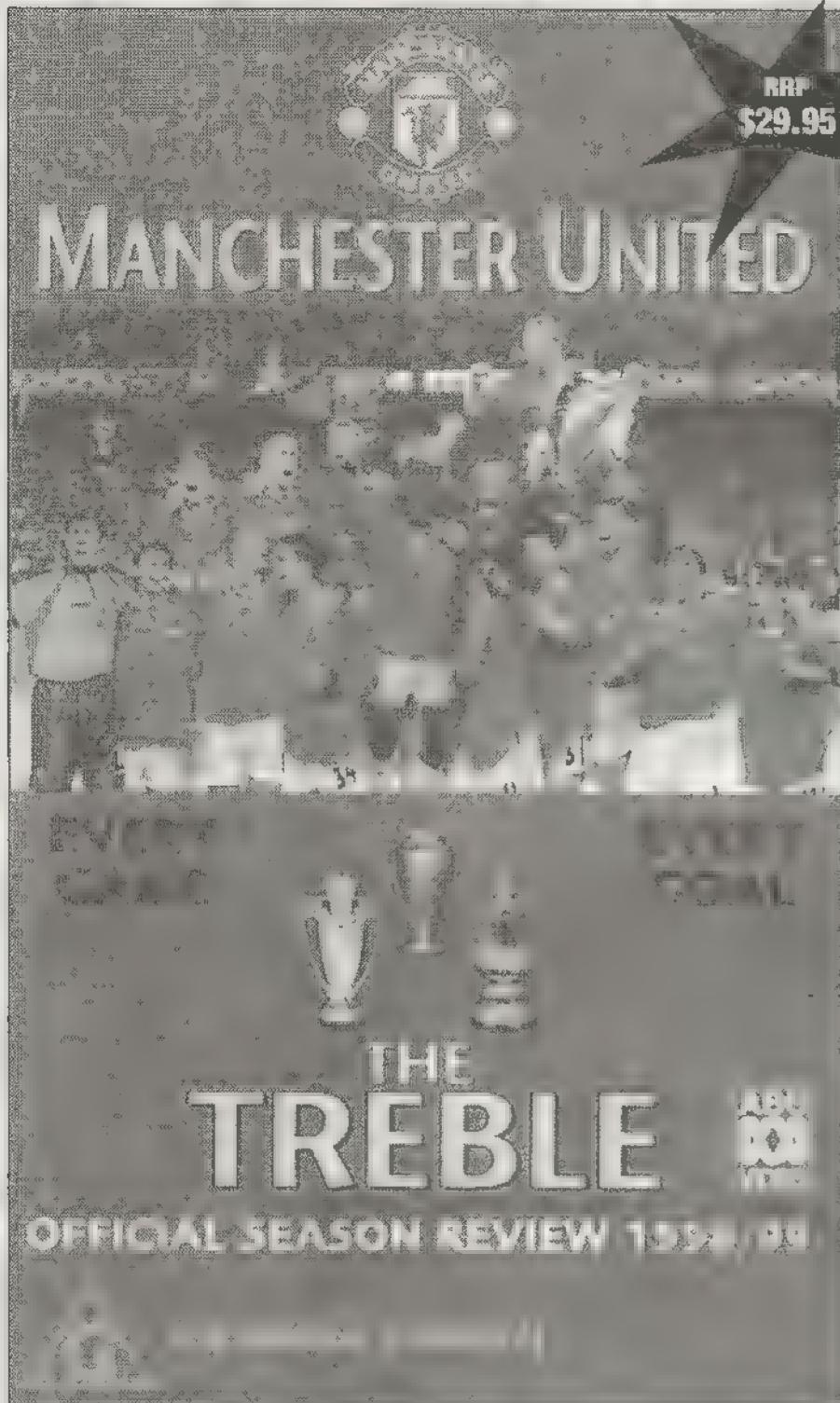
Marconi's disappointed coach Eddie Krnecic refused to take anything away from the Kiwis' win, stating, "The Auckland Kingz played really well and prevented us from playing our game. We were totally outclassed, and even though we had chances through Maloney, Duric and Zoric, we didn't deserve to win. It was our worst display of the season and we were given a lesson on how Soccer should be played-disciplined and with hunger. We missed Gibson, McDonald and Invincible tonight, but my players should analyse their own performance, especially our midfielders who were very ordinary," ended Krnecic.

Meanwhile the Kingz' always most reserved co-coach Shane Rufer, reflected: "That's now three out of four matches in Sydney we have not been beaten and to keep the table close this result was very important to us. It was a good result, especially in not conceding a goal and we hope that continues next week. We changed a few things around such as using Middleby on the left of midfield with Mennillo coming into the middle. We can still play a lot better after we settle into the League well. We made a few errors and were lucky not to concede goals as we are still having some teething problems.

"We have to make North Harbour (home ground) our fortress. Our two South American players who joined us just 10 days before the season started, are still training with the Club," ended the former New Zealand international midfielder.

TURN TO PAGE 32 FOR MATCH STATISTICS

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PJ REJOINS COSMOS

By Graham Cooke

Novell Canberra Cosmos midfielder Paul 'P.J.' Roberts rejoined the National Soccer League club this week — and his first 'training session' involved packing Christmas hampers for the Smith Family.

Roberts, who has been trialing for a number of clubs in Scotland and England since leaving Australia at the end of June, took this unexpected role in his stride.

"I was expecting a series of tests to see how fit I am, but packing Christmas hampers for needy families...I'm proud to be with a club that takes its community responsibilities so seriously," he said.

But it was quickly down to business for Roberts who was in line to make a fast return to the Cosmos line-up after injuries and suspensions depleted coach Tom Sermanni's options.

He had something of a roller-coaster ride around the Scottish and English leagues "a worthwhile, motivating experience, but at the same time disappointing and frustrating," he said.

"It was disappointing because I could not pick up anything that made it worth staying there, and frustrating because I could not find the right club that needed a player with my talents."

He began his search with Scottish Premier League outfit Hibernian, where he had been recommended by former Cosmos player Gordon Hunter.

"It went well, with a good set-up, and the manager liked me, but he already had plenty of midfielders under contract," Roberts said.

He recommended me to Partick Thistle and they offered a contract, but the money was not that good and I didn't see the Scottish Second Division as being any kind of progression from the NSL, so I turned them down.

"From there I went to Oxford in the English Second Division. I played a couple of games for the reserves and they gave me the impression they were going to sign me, but at the last moment said I wasn't what they were looking for. It was a bit of a shock."

Next came Stockport County, a division higher. "That wasn't so good. I arrived there on a week's trial and they more or less said 'enjoy your time here, but unless you are a superstar

we won't be signing you'.

"Once again it was a case of them having plenty of players in my position. I was probably as good as any already on staff, but not so much better I could tip out a player under contract."

His last port of call was Third Division Barnet. "They offered me a contract, but like Partick it was a case of whether, at that level, I could do better in the NSL, so I decided to come home."

Roberts said he had kept in touch with Sermanni during his overseas stint and they had been honest with each other. "I told him I had decided to extend my stay in Britain past the start of the NSL season, and he said he would have to get a replacement for me."

Now the 25-year-old has to find a place in a team where Scottish import Brian Hamilton is already established. "It's going to be a struggle, especially when the injuries and suspensions clear up, but I can be flexible and I believe there's a place for both of us in the line up," Roberts said.

"I should be entering my best years of soccer, and as things stand at the moment, I intend to dedicate them to Canberra."

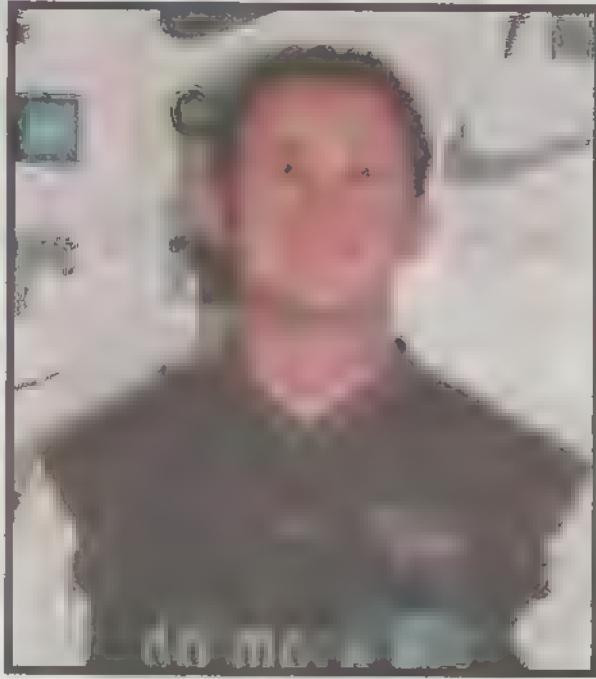


PJ Roberts: Proud to be at the Cosmos.

Carlton

CARLTON

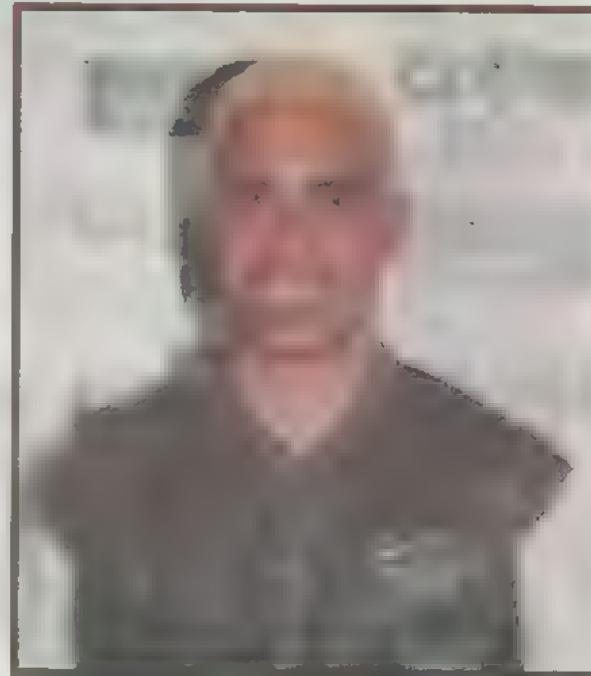
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John Markovski



Dave McPherson



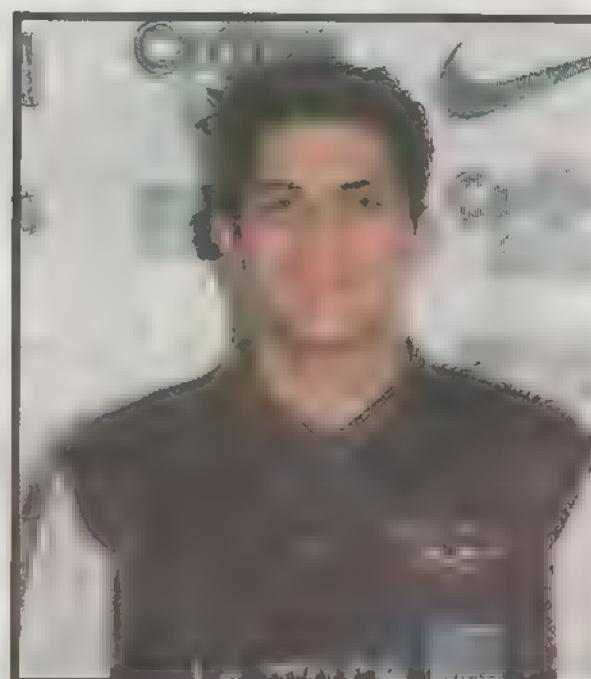
Archie Thompson



Craig Deans



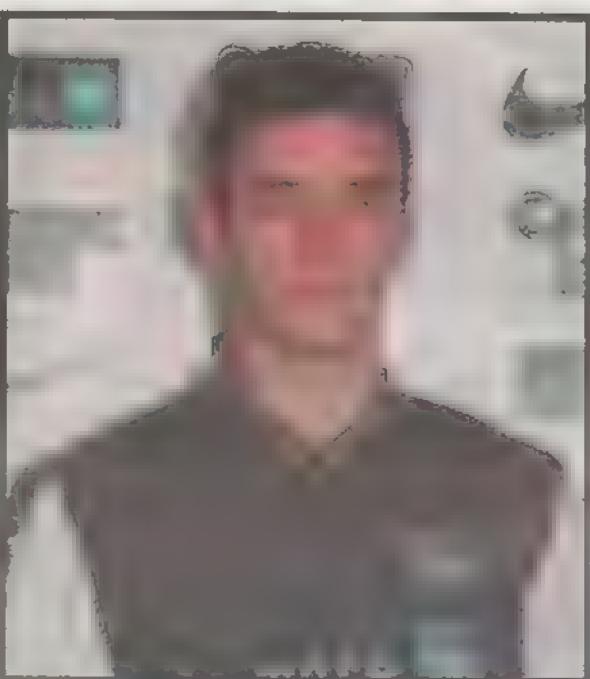
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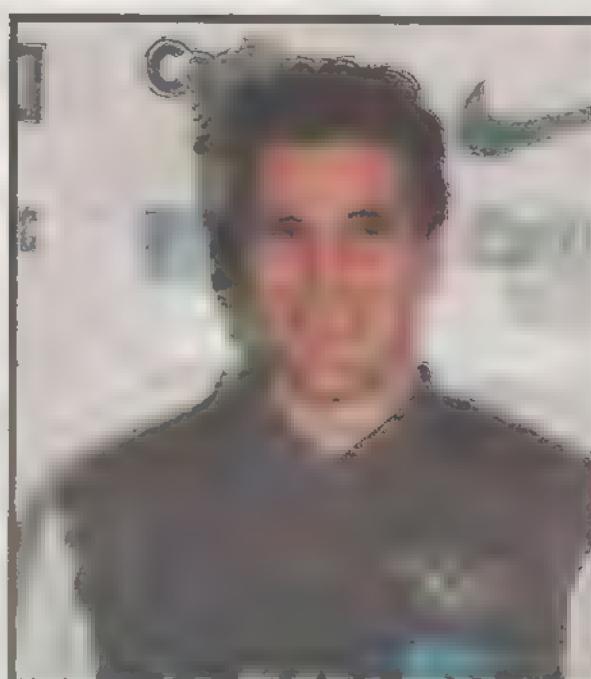
Simon Colosimo



Mark Atkinson



Con Anthopoulos

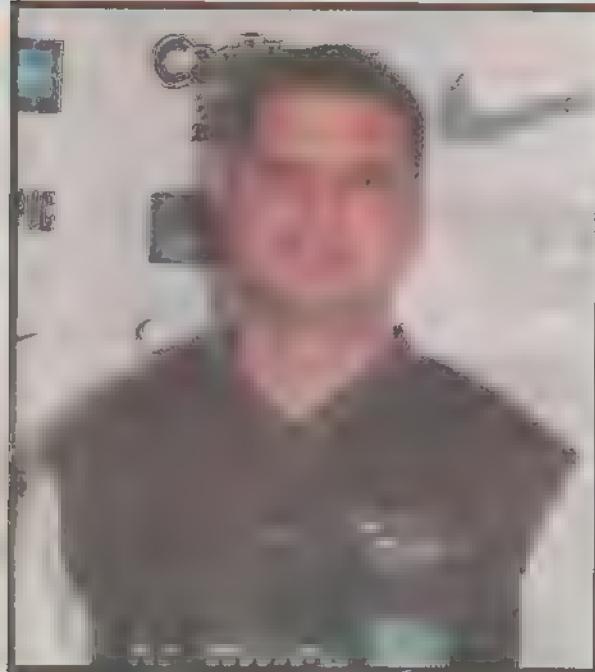


David Della Rocca

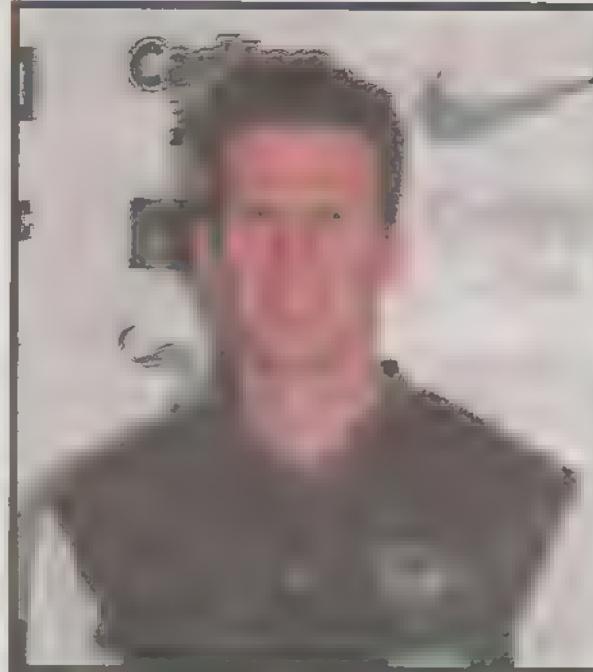
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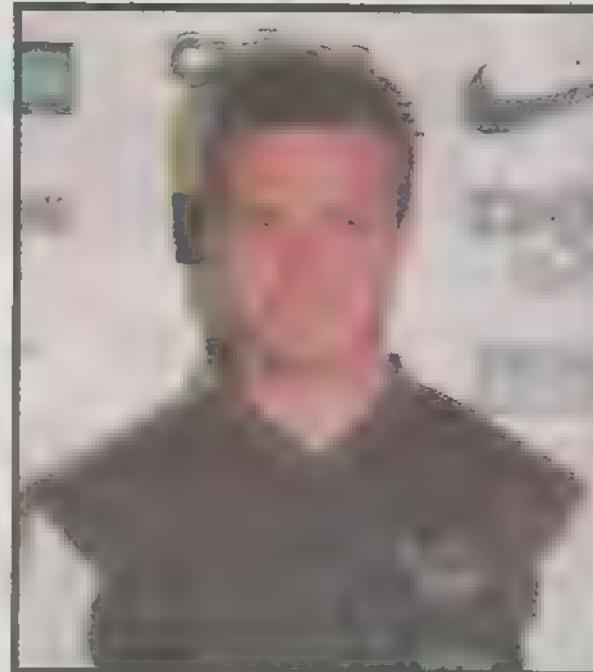
Mike Conroy, Serdar Pir, Steve Martin



Alex Moriera



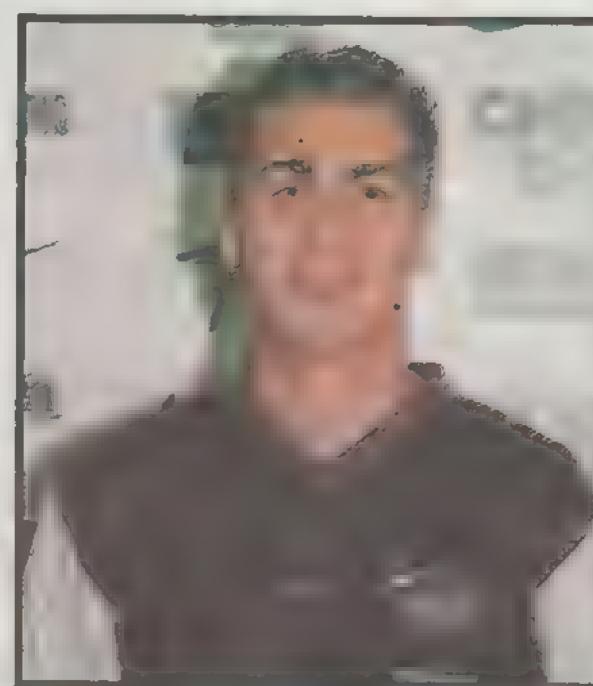
Sean Douglas



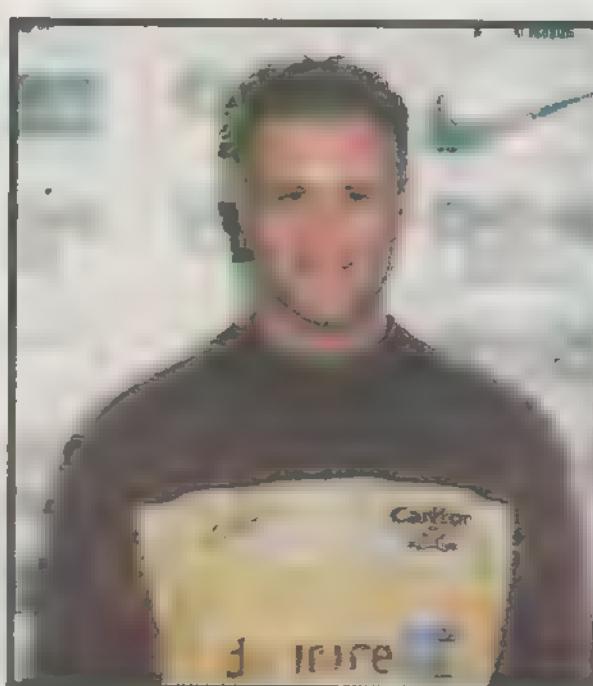
Andrew Marth - Captain



Joe Tricario



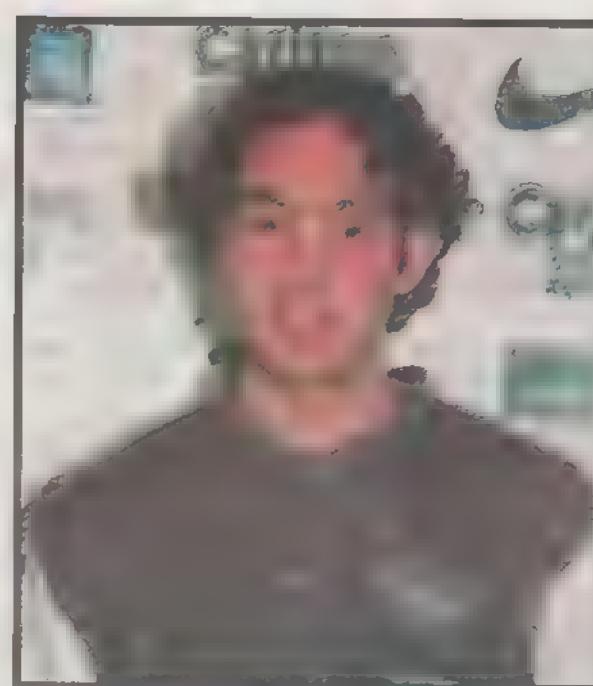
David Terminello



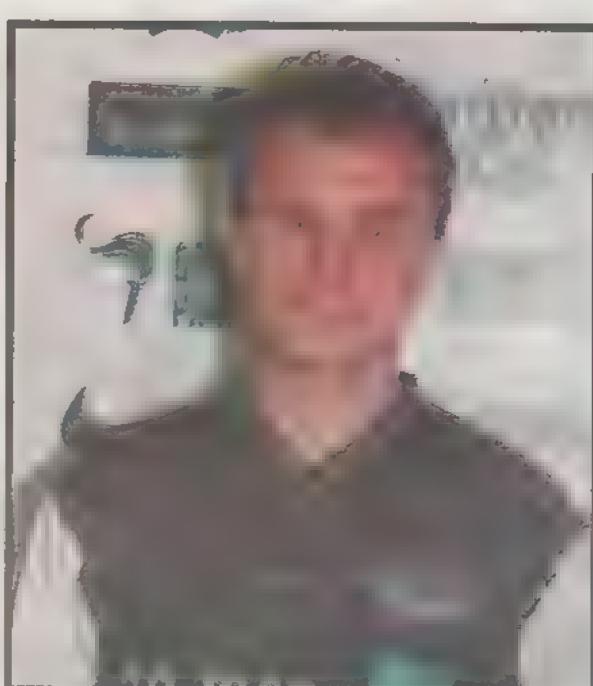
Dean Anastasiadis



Angelo Motsiopoulos



Colin Azzopardi



Lubo Lapsansky

National Youth League

NORTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 11)

FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER

A.C.T.A.S.	2	Sydney Olympic	2
(Mrdja 8, Williams 20)		(Nicolau 27, own goal 90)	
Parramatta Power	2	Newcastle Breakers	1
(Down, Gatt)		(Juchniewicz)	

SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER

Wollongong Wolves Colts ..	1	Newcastle Breakers Colts	3
(Petkovski 9)		(Hughes 41, Provost 80, Pryce 85)	
Sydney United Colts	0	Wollongong Wolves	2
(Aldridge 81, 90)			
Q.A.S.	2	N.S.W.I.S.	1
(M Davidson 44, Miner 88)		(Martin 81)	
Marconi Stallions Colts	2	Sydney United	4
(M Babic 18, Santilli 63)		(Bozinovski 22, Lo Proto 38, 75, Deak 60)	

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER

Sydney Olympic Academy	2	Northern Spirit	6
(Sarmonikas 83, Agic 88)		(Bilokapic 30, 67, R Griffiths 38, Seal 40, 56, 85)	
Northern Spirit Colts v Marconi Stallions			
(To be played Monday 13 December 1999)			
Sydney United Colts v A.I.S.			

(To be played Wednesday 15 December 1999)

Bye - A.I.S.

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power	10	9	1	1	0	31	5	28
A.I.S.	11	7	2	1	2	45	14	23
Q.A.S.	11	7	1	1	3	31	15	22
Sydney Olympic	9	6	3	1	0	26	7	21
Northern Spirit	9	6	1	1	2	21	12	19
Newcastle Breakers	11	5	1	0	5	18	16	16
Marconi Stallions	8	5	0	0	3	13	15	15
N.S.W.I.S.	9	4	1	1	4	17	9	13
Sydney United	8	4	1	0	3	17	17	13
A.C.T.A.S.	10	3	3	1	4	17	24	12
Sydney Olympic Academy	10	4	0	1	6	24	39	12
Wollongong Wolves	9	3	1	1	5	10	16	10
Marconi Stallions Colts	9	2	2	1	5	14	24	8
Northern Spirit Colts	8	2	2	1	4	9	20	8
Newcastle Breakers Colts	12	2	1	0	9	14	27	9
Sydney United Colts	12	1	2	0	9	11	32	5
Wollongong Wolves Colts	8	0	1	1	7	6	33	1

By Theo Katsaros

Sydney Olympic fought back from a two-goal deficit to snatch a 2-2 draw against A.C.T.A.S. at Bruce Stadium. An eighth minute goal to Nick Mrdja and a 20th minute strike by Adam Williams put the home side in a commanding position. However, 2-0 is a dangerous scoreline.

Dimitri Nicolau reduced the lead after 27 minutes and just before the break the hosts were reduced to 10 men when Mrdja was sent from the field. The visitors pressed for an equaliser in the second half and it finally arrived on the stroke of full-time. Dominique La Butte unfortunately putting the ball into his own net to hand Olympic a point.

The Parramatta Power remain on top of the league ladder after their two-one home victory over the Newcastle Breakers. The goalscorers for the Power were Patrick Gatt and Paul Down. Peter Juchniewicz responded for the Breakers.

The Power have been very impressive in their debut season but it remains to be seen if this will continue. All will be revealed over the next few months.

At the Sydney United Sports Centre the Wollongong Wolves escaped from a tough encounter with all three points courtesy of a double to Daniel Aldridge. The Sydney United Colts held the Wolves scoreless until the final ten minutes but goals in the 81st and 90th minutes sunk the youngsters.

Sydney United recorded their second successive win after outplaying the Marconi Stallions Colts at Marconi Stadium. Mark Babic opened the scoring for the Stallions in the 18th minute but the lead lasted only four minutes.

Steve Bozinovski equalised for Sydney United before Allan Lo Proto edged his team ahead in the 38th minute. Sydney United extended their lead after the break when Ante Deak netted after 60 minutes. Saul Santilli replied three minutes later but Allan Lo Proto sealed the four goals to two victory in the 75th minute.

In Wollongong, the Newcastle Breakers Colts took all three points from the Wollongong Wolves Colts and firmly cemented the Wolves Colts to the foot of the league ladder. The three-one win was the Breakers second for the season.

Nick Petkovski had put the home team into the lead on 18 minutes before Adam Hughes levelled for the visitors in the 41st minute. The Wolves kept the Breakers at bay for most of the second half but two late goals to Alex Provost and William Pryce ended the scoring.

In the battle of the states the Q.A.S. defeated the N.S.W.I.S. by two goals to one at Suncorp Metway Stadium. The Q.A.S. have once again found themselves in the top three after leading the competition for the first couple of rounds.

All goals were scored late in both halves. Mark Davidson scored in

the 44th minute for the Queenslanders before. Tallan Martin equalised for the N.S.W.I.S. in the 81st minute. It looked as if the points would be shared until Russell Miner grabbed his ninth goal this season to snatch an 88th minute winner for the hosts.

A hat-trick to David Seal and a double to Paul Bilokapic helped the Northern Spirit to a six-two demolition of the Sydney Olympic Academy. Ryan Griffiths was the other scorer for the Spirit.

For Olympic, Gregor Agic and Anthony Sarmonikas found the net. The final match of Round 11 takes place on Monday night at North Sydney Oval when the Northern Spirit Colts host the Marconi Stallions.

ROUND 12

FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 1999

Newcastle Breakers v Wollongong Wolves Colts
(Breakers Stadium - 5.15pm)

SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER 1999
A.I.S. v Marconi Stallions (A.I.S. Soccer Field - 7.00pm)

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 1999
Sydney Olympic v Q.A.S. (Belmore Sports Ground - 4.00pm)
Wollongong Wolves v A.C.T.A.S. (Brandon Park - 4.00pm)
Marconi Stallions Colts v Newcastle Breakers Colts
(Marconi Stadium - 4.00pm)
N.S.W.I.S. v Parramatta Power
(Valentine Park - 7.00pm)

MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 1999
Northern Spirit Colts v Sydney Olympic Academy
(North Sydney Oval - 5.30pm)
Northern Spirit v Sydney United Colts
(North Sydney Oval - 7.30pm)

Bye - Sydney United

LEADING SCORERS

Elias Demourtzidis	A.I.S.	10
Russell Miner	Q.A.S.	9
Damian Pisano	Sydney Olympic	7
Franco Parisi	Sydney Olympic Academy	7
Grant Last	A.I.S.	6
Daniel Kukucka	Parramatta Power	6

SOUTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 8)

SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER 1999

VIS	3	Melbourne Knights	0
(Denis Vucinic, Mark Tsiorlas, Juan Sastre)			
Preston Lions	1	Carlton	11
(Dimce Atanasovski)		(Isayim Erdogan 3, Deniz Ekici 3, Ace Stojcevski 2, Mathew Nikolic, Colin Azzopardi, own goal)	
Albury Wodonga	2	Melbourne Knights	0
(David Martin, Mitchell Jones)			

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 1999

Bulleen Inter	2	South Melbourne	1
(Rocco Di Vito, Chris Gotziliani)		(Andrew Mashoian)	
Fawkner Blues	2	South Dandenong	1
(Ross Cardillo, Robert Senes)		(Lirim Rasimi)	
Gippsland Falcons v Bye			

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	7	7	0	0	33	3	21
VIS	7	7	0	0	23	0	21
Bulleen Inter Kings	7	6	0	1	21	10	18
Melbourne Knights	8	3	2	3	24	17	11
Gippsland Falcons	6	3	1	2	9	14	10
South Melbourne	6	3	0	3	18	9	9
South Dandenong	7	2	2	3	11	12	8
Fawkner Blues	7	2	2	3	10	16	8
Albury Wodonga	8	1	1	6	9	28	4
Melbourne Kn.ghnts Academy	7	1	0	6	3	11	3
Preston Lions	8	0	0	8	3	44	0

By Roy Hay

Carlton demolished a luckless Preston Lions by 11-1 in the Southern Division on Saturday at Connor Reserve. Preston's regular keeper injured his leg at training on Tuesday night and his place had to be taken by an outfield player, which meant the

young Lions were always going to be under pressure.

For Carlton, Isayim Erdogan and Deniz Ekici each scored hat-tricks and Ace Stojcevski chipped in with two goals. Mathew Nikolic and Colin Azzopardi got a goal apiece and the other one was an own goal.

Dimee Atanasovski scored the consolation goal for the Lions. The win keeps Carlton's nose ahead of the VIS after eight rounds.

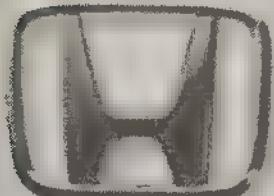
The Victorian Institute of Sport recorded a 3-0 win over Melbourne Knights Academy, so the VIS goal has still not been breached this season.

Denis Vucinic fired in a pile driver from 30 metres in the 25th minute to put his side ahead, but the second goal did not come till more than an hour had been played. George Pantelidis sent in a precision through ball and Mark Tsiorlas latched on to it to finish well. Juan Sastre, returning after long term injury, made it

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JUNIOR SOCCER

YOUNG GUN MAKES THE GRADE

By Vince Battiato

Christopher-Joe Screpis turned 16 last Saturday. He is one of the youngest members of the Marconi Colts side in the current season. Do not forget his name.

Chris was brought up and raised in a Soccer crazed household. With two older brothers and living in Sydney's west, there was never going to be any doubt on which would become his primary sport.

A solid defensive midfielder who can get forward and score vital goals, he can also adapt to the sweeper role very easily.

He is sharp, quick, has a great right foot, has great vision and is an intelligent player.

Although his game isn't exactly modelled on his most favourite player, Roberto Baggio, he has been his major influence.

"It's because he's a gun player. He's done it all," he told ABSW.

"He is like the Michael Jordan of World Soccer." He started his career at Marconi and saw immediate success at the Gothia Cup in Sweden in 1996.



The unofficial World Cup for U.13's, Marconi represented Australia. Under the watchful eye of current Marconi technical director John Paul de Marigny, they finished with a Bronze medal. There were over 300 teams competing from around the globe.

Chris was with the Southern Districts U/16's last season and the natural progression was to move to the National League Colts team for Marconi.

He has made a number of appearances coming off the bench and it's only a matter of time before he begins to make an impact.

Keep an eye on this young man. We will hear plenty more about him in the years to come.



Christopher-Joe Screpis: A player to watch for.

PROFILE

Full Name: Christopher Joe Screpis
Club: Marconi Colts
D/O/B: 11/12/83
Foot: Right
Eye colour: Green
Hair colour: Brown
Positions played: Sweeper, defensive midfield
Previous clubs: Marconi, A.C.U., Southern Districts
Current club: Marconi Colts

Achievements:
Marconi U/12 Premiers
BRONZE MEDAL at Gothia Cup 1996
(U/13 World Cup - Marconi represented Australia)

Major Ambition: To play in Serie A

PERSONALITY

Favourite Actor: Al Pacino
Favourite Movie: The Godfather
Favourite Comedian: Eddie Murphy
Last Book read: Seinfeld
Favourite Magazine: "The Mafia: The First 100 years"
Favourite Food: Football Italia
Favourite Drink: Pasta
Favourite TV show: Green Cordial
A dinner party for 6, you can invite anybody, living, dead, fact or fiction - who do you invite? Seinfeld

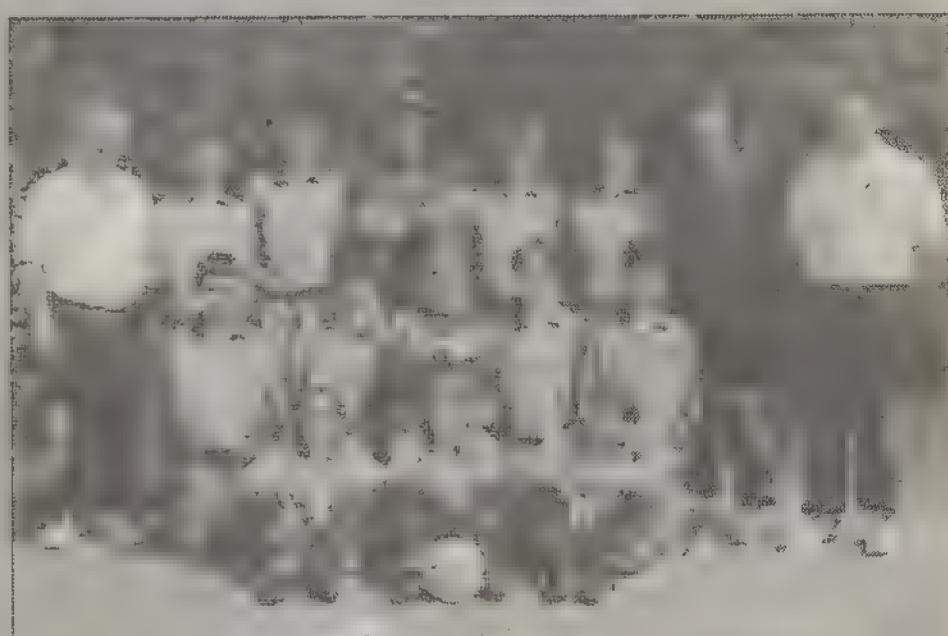
Roberto Baggio
 Elton John
 Eddie Murphy
 Claudia Schiffer
 Elle Macpherson
 Amy Marninone



Roberto Baggio: Michael Jordan of World Football.

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Roberto Baggio
Favourite Overseas Team: AC Milan
Most Admired Australian (based overseas): Paul Okon
Most Admired Defender: Franco Baresi / Paolo Maldini
Most Admired Midfielder: Zinedine Zidane
Most Admired Striker: Christian Vieri
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Dino Zoff
Major influences: Roberto Baggio, my dad and my Soccer mad family



The Gothia Cup Bronze medal winning team in 1996. Christopher Screpis is in the front row seated furthest to the right.

HAVE YOUR PHOTO OR A PHOTO OF YOUR SOCCER TEAM PUBLISHED IN AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY. AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO SEND IN THEIR PHOTOS TOO.

SEND PHOTOS TO THE EDITOR,

**AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY, PO BOX 155,
 MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204.**

OR E-MAIL PHOTOS IN JPEG FORMAT TO

soccerweekly@hotmail.com

*All photos will be returned

FAMOUS PHOTOS



St George Police Boys youngster Brendan Reilly is seen here with Ian Rush (left). Brendan trained with Rush on 28/11/99 at Ador Reserve Rockdale. He is also pictured with Harry Kewell (right) at the Hunters Hill Foxtel sports day on the 27th June earlier this year.



Pictured with Ian Rush are the Cardozo Brothers. We all know Pablo, but rumour has it that younger brother Richie may be able to teach both these guys a thing or two in the coming years.

Have you had your photo taken with someone famous in soccer? Even if it happened years ago, you can have the photo published in ABSW. Send photos to

The Editor
Australian and British Soccer Weekly
P.O. Box 155, Marrickville NSW 2204.

Or E-mail the photo in JPEG format to
soccerweekly@hotmail.com.

*All photos will be returned

STUMP THE EDITOR

QUESTION from:

Davide La Scala
 Paradise, S.A.

In 1961-62 A.C.Milan won the Serie A championship five points clear of hometown rivals Inter. At the end of this season who were the three teams relegated to Serie B?

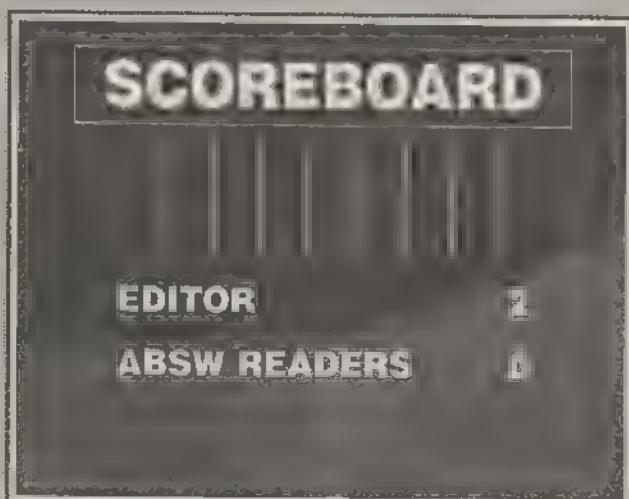
This was a toughie to start Davide. Udinese were the cellar-dwellers with Padova and Lecco also relegated. If it was four teams down as it is today then Vicenza would have also gone since they finished just above Lecco.

QUESTION from:

S.Stevenson
 Bass Hill, NSW

Where was the actual FA Cup trophy first made?

Strange as it may seem, the FA Cup was made in Bradford. Even more ironic is that this was the ONLY year that Bradford actually won the Cup. How's that for spooky!!



WIN a copy of the soccer video of your choice if you can

Send your question to:
Stump The Editor

ABSW
PO BOX 155, Marrickville 2204
or fax on (02) 9550 9332
or email to:
soccerweekly@hotmail.com

SOCER WOMAN

By Janene Mar

FIFA SHIFTS WORLD CUP

Last week in Tokyo, FIFA conducted the much awaited Preliminary Draw Ceremony for the qualification stages of the men's 2002 World Cup to be hosted jointly by Japan and South Korea.

The major talking point to emerge from the draw was England's placement in the same group as World Cup evergreens Germany.

But there was another significant announcement made in the press conference later that evening, largely unnoticed as well as unexpected, but of particular importance to Australia and women's soccer around the world.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter revealed FIFA's decision to bring forward the Women's World Cup by one year, meaning it would be held the same year as the men's World Cup, as a way of raising the profile of the women's game.

Starting in 2002, the women's and the men's World Cups would be held the same year.

"We want to give more exposure to women's football," said Blatter.

Blatter also stated that Australia is a "leading

candidate" to host the next Women's World Cup, and suggested that October would be a good time of year for us to hold it, after the men's World Cup in June. The final decision on the host nation will be made by FIFA mid-next year.

The new women's schedule will allow the time for women's football to add to their international calendar a specific Olympic Games qualifying tournament.

For the 1996 and 2000 Olympics, the top finishers from the World Cup automatically earned a berth into the Olympics plus the host nation. The 2004 Olympic Games in Athens will be contested by 12 women's football teams, four more than Sydney 2000.

The inaugural Women's World Cup was held in 1991, and has continued to take its place in the year following the men's World Cup. USA '99 succeeded in taking women's soccer to heights never thought possible in June-July this year, with incredible public, media and corporate support, and fantastic crowds throughout in top class stadiums.

The climax was the sell-out crowd of 90,185

filling the Rose Bowl in Pasadena to witness the final, a world record attendance for a women's sporting event of any kind.

Taking this and the general growth of women's football in recent years into consideration, is the decision to hold both World Cups in the same year a good one? Will it really make a difference? In what ways will it increase exposure? Is there a danger of it going against women's soccer?

Are the two pitching at the same audience anyway? Are the international media, corporate and organisational resources sufficient to cover two Cups within the space of five months?

October at least is a good time of year for us, rather than the usual mid-year schedule (our winter) for when we (hopefully) host the next World Cup. And the opportunity to compete in additional Olympic Qualifiers will also provide another top notch international competition, leaving less of a quality void in the non-Olympic and World Cup years.

But as a major shift to the game overall, I'm not yet convinced it's a good move for women's football.



Sepp Blatter: Raising the profile of women's soccer.

DON'T MISS THE OZ CUP

Make sure you plan your holidays around the upcoming Australia Cup featuring the Matildas, World Cup and Olympic Champions USA, Sweden, and the Czech Republic.

2nd Australia Cup

Fri 7 January Australia v Sweden 6pm North Sydney Oval, Sydney (doubleheader with Northern Spirit match)

Fri 7 January USA v Czech Republic 6pm Olympic Park, Melbourne (doubleheader with Carlton match)

Mon 10 January USA v Sweden 5.30pm Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne Australia v Czech Republic 7.30pm Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne

Thu 13 January Sweden v Czech Republic 5.30pm Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide Australia v USA 7.30pm Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

Tickets are available through Northern Spirit (Sydney), Carlton and the Victorian Soccer Federation (Melbourne), and Venuetix (Adelaide).

Macarthur Rams Womens SUPER LEAGUE



Opportunities are now available to play for Macarthur Rams in the NSW Womens Super League for the 2000 season.

This very progressive organisation offers an attractive player development path for the elite Soccer player and is second to none in terms of benefits provided.

Macarthur Rams have a plan in place to ensure they develop as a major force in Women's Soccer and are looking for similarly minded players to join them.

To learn more about the opportunities available to you please call Rob Laws on 02 9618 3928 (w) or 0409 032336.

Aussie Jackie Hadden has been named USA's 1999 Northeast Conference (NEC) women's soccer player of the year. The senior midfielder has been named to the All-NEC Team in each of her four years playing for Central Connecticut State University — the Blue Devils — in USA's quality college league.

This year Hadden, the team captain, led the NEC in assists with nine, and was eighth in goals with



six and tallied a team high 21 points. At one stage, she was ranked in the top 10 in NCAA Division I in assists-per game. She was a starter in all 17 matches this season.

HADDEN NAMED

TOP PLAYER

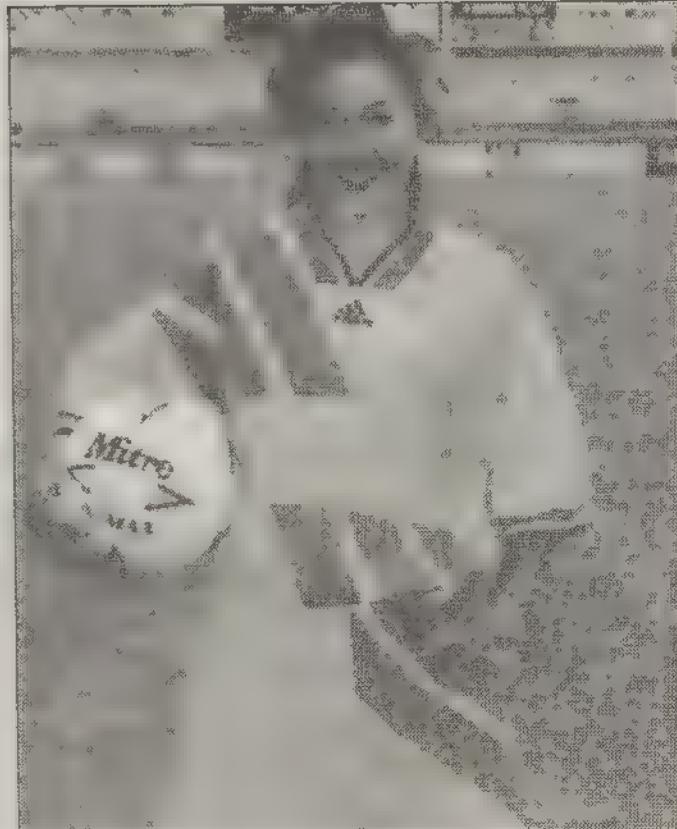
Hadden holds the single-season assists record with 11 and assists in a career with 34. She set the single-season mark last year. In 1996, Hadden was named to the Northeast Region All-Freshman team. She also notched a goal in CCSU's first ever NEC win against Wagner College.

Hadden has been described as a leader both on and off the field in her four years at Central and has also excelled in the classroom.

Hadden last played for Marconi in the NSW Women's State League before taking up her college scholarship, and is regarded a highly skilful playmaker, with great touch and vision. She was always a keen student of the South American style and training methods.

Named in the 1997 and 1998 National Train-On Squads here in Australia, Hadden joined the touring Australian Team as a 'training member' for the 1997 US Women's Cup.

She has represented Australia on one occasion playing against Russia in the 1994 Gold Coast invitational under then National Coach, John Reid.



Jackie Hadden: A class above.

WORLD

SERIE A (ITALY)

BOLOGNA 1 AS ROMA 0

Giuseppe Signori's superb bicycle kick in the 25th minute halted Bologna's run of three successive league and Cup wins.

But Roma surrendered their six-match unbeaten run only after hitting the woodwork twice through Vincenzo Montella in the first half and Marco Delvecchio in the second.

JUVENTUS 1 INTER MILAN 0

Not even manager Marcello Lippi's inside knowledge of Juventus and the presence of four ex-Juve players in Inter's line-up could improve on the visitors' recent record at the Delle Alpi — six years without a win.

Filippo Inzaghi scored the only goal in the 19th minute after a moment of class from Alessandro Del Piscio, who was then substituted in the 61st minute after Dutch goalkeeper Edwin Van Der Sar was sent off for a second bookable offence.

LAZIO 2 FIORENTINA 0

Len Bokšić put Lazio in front in the 15th minute after a defence-splitting pass from Sebastian Veron but poor finishing from Dejan Stanković, Roberto Mancini and Bokšić meant Lazio had to wait until the 71st minute to kill the match off.

Sinisa Mihajlović's corner was cleared but the Yugoslav simply volleyed back into the area and compatriot Stanković headed in off the post for Lazio's second.

PIACENZA 0 PERUGIA 0

Both sides struggled to create scoring chances in a dour scoreless draw. Former Italian midfielder Giovanni Stroppa came closest to breaking the deadlock for Piacenza with a powerful shot just after half-time.



Zinedine Zidane of Juventus gets past Benoit Cauet of Inter. Juventus won 1-0.

REGGINA 1 CAGLIARI 1

Cagliari made the worst possible start when Belgian striker Luis Oliveira was dismissed for the second time this season for a crude challenge less than a minute into the game.

The 10-man Sardinians took the lead through Frenchman Jason Maye's 41st minute header, only for Reggina's Mohamed Kallon to deny his former

team their first win of the season with his fifth goal of the term in the 59th minute.

UDINESE 3 VERONA 2

After a shock victory at Bayer Leverkusen in last A week's UEFA Cup tie, Udinese were brought back to earth when Andrea Sottil put through his own net in the 11th minute and Brazilian striker Adalton put Verona two up in the 28th. Roberto Muzzi pulled

a goal back two minutes later only for Adalton to restore the visitors' two-goal cushion straight after the break.

But Udinese rallied and were level just after the hour through goals from Tomas Locatelli (56) and villain turned hero Sottil (63). After having Armo Diana sent off in the 73rd, Verona were grateful to hang on for the point.

VENEZIA 0 PARMA 2

Venezia made a dreadful start when Italy defender Fabio Cannavaro put Parma ahead in the 11th minute. Then the home side lost their Austrian goalkeeper Michael Konsel, sent off for handling out of the area in the 25th minute.

Johan Walem's dismissal for a second bookable offence in the 39th meant Parma lost their one-man advantage. But they never looked in trouble and in the 78th minute Hernan Crespo sealed a deserved victory. It was the Argentine's 50th goal for Parma, passing Gianfranco Zola's old record of 49.

LECCE 1 BARI 0

Three players were sent off in an ill-tempered local derby settled by Alessandro Conticchio's 62nd minute turn and spectacular shot into the top corner. Two minutes later the home side's Francisco Lima and Gionatha Spinesi of Bari were both shown the red card after an off-the-ball confrontation.

The visitors finished the game with nine men after Gaciano De Rosa was dismissed in the 71st minute following a clash with David Sesa.

AC MILAN 2 TORINO 0

German Oliver Bierhoff was on the scoresheet early on for the second week in succession, turning in Zvonimir Boban's cross for his sixth goal of the season in the third minute.

Andriy Schevchenko sealed victory with a dubious 75th minute spot kick — the Ukrainian's first league goal since October 24.

Earlier, Torino captain Gianluigi Lentini missed a golden chance to score against his old club and had an appeal for what looked like a clear penalty turned down.

FA CUP FOURTH ROUND DRAW

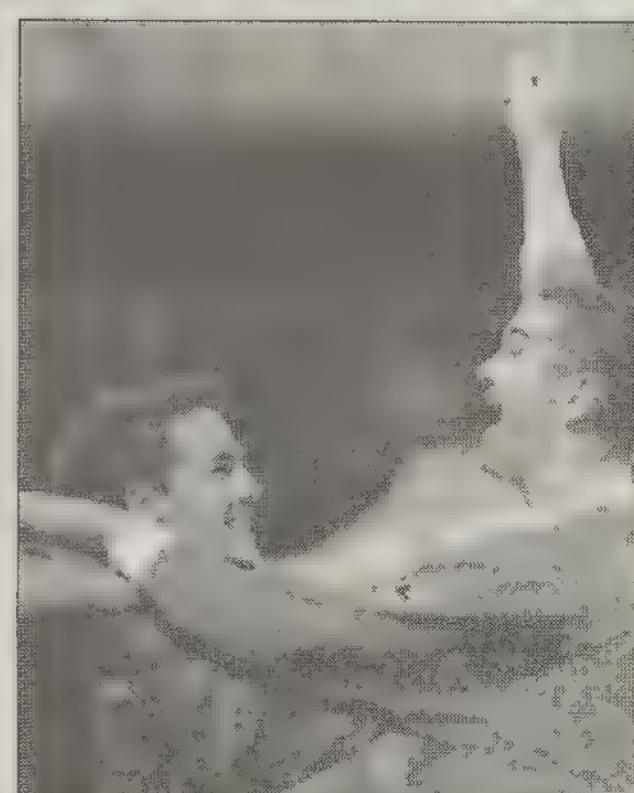


Stefan Iverson: Of Tottenham celebrates his goal against Newcastle United. The game ended 1-1.

FA CUP ROUND 4

- Grimsby v Bolton or Cardiff
- Aston Villa v Ipswich or Southampton
- Manchester City v Leeds United
- Reading or Plymouth v Preston
- Walsall or Gillingham v Bradford City
- Fulham or Luton v Wimbledon
- Chelsea v Nottingham Forest or Oxford United
- Tranmere v Sunderland
- Arsenal or Blackpool v Hereford or Leicester City
- Tottenham Hotspur or Newcastle United v Sheffield
- United or Rushden and Diamonds
- Wrexham v Cambridge United
- Coventry City v Burnley
- Liverpool v West Bromwich or Blackburn
- Sheffield Wednesday v Wolverhampton
- Charlton v Queens Park Rangers or Torquay
- Exeter or Everton v Birmingham

Matches to be played over weekend of January 8-9.



Michael Owen and Dominic Matteo celebrates Liverpool's 2-0 victory away at Huddersfield.

WORLD

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



GROUP A

Porto (Portugal)
Hertha Berlin (Germany)
Barcelona (Spain)
Sparta Prague (Czech Republic)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Hertha Berlin	1	Barcelona	1
Michalke 33		Luis Enrique 14	
Sparta Prague	0	Porto	2

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Porto	1	Hertha Berlin	0
Drulovic 78			
Barcelona	5	Sparta Prague	0
Kluivert 44, 63			
Luis Enrique 45, 76			
Guardiola 59			

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Barcelona	v	Porto	
Hertha Berlin	v	Sparta Prague	

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Porto	v	Barcelona	
Sparta Prague	v	Hertha Berlin	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Barcelona	v	Hertha Berlin	
Porto	v	Sparta Prague	

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Hertha Berlin	v	Porto	
Sparta Prague	v	Barcelona	

Table

Porto	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	6	1	4
Hertha Berlin	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Sparta Prague	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

GROUP B

Bordeaux (France)
Fiorentina (Italy)
Manchester United (England)
Valencia (Spain)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Fiorentina	2	Manchester Utd	0
Batistuta 25, Balbo 52			
Valencia	3	BORDEAUX	0
Farinos 60, Ilie 66, Gonzalez 88			

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Bordeaux	0	Fiorentina	0
Manchester Utd	3	Valencia	0
Keane 38, Solskjaer 47			
Scholes 69			

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Manchester Utd	v	Bordeaux	
Fiorentina	v	Valencia	

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Bordeaux	v	Manchester Utd	
Valencia	v	Fiorentina	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Manchester Utd	v	Fiorentina	
Bordeaux	v	Valencia	

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Fiorentina	v	Bordeaux	
Valencia	v	Manchester Utd	

Table

Fiorentina	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Manchester Utd	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Valencia	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Bordeaux	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

GROUP C

Bayern Munich (Germany)
Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine)
Real Madrid (Spain)
Rosenborg Trondheim (Norway)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Dynamo Kiev	1	Real Madrid	2
Rebrov 85pen		Morientes 17, Raul 48	
Rosenborg	1	Bayern Munich	1
Skammelsrud 47		Jancker 10	

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Bayern Munich	2	Dynamo Kiev	1
Jancker 6, Sergio 80		Rebrov 50	
Real Madrid	3	Rosenborg	1
Raul 17, Savio 85		Carew 47	

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Real Madrid	v	Bayern Munich	
Dynamo Kiev	v	Rosenborg	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Bayern Munich	v	Real Madrid	
Rosenborg	v	Dynamo Kiev	

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Real Madrid	v	Dynamo Kiev	
Bayern Munich	v	Rosenborg	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Dynamo Kiev	v	Bayern Munich	
Rosenborg	v	Real Madrid	

Table

Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Bayern Munich	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Rosenborg	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Dynamo Kiev	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

GROUP D

Feyenoord (Netherlands)
Olympique Marseille (France)
Lazio (Italy)
Chelsea (England)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Marseille	0	Lazio	2
Stankovic 64,		Conceicao 78	
3	Feyenoord	1	

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Feyenoord	3	Marseille	0
</tbl



FIFA

World Rankings

(Valid until December 22)

1	Brazil	69	Costa Rica	136	St Kitts & Nevis
2	France	70	Burkina Faso	138	Libya
3	Czech Republic	71	Guatemala	139	Benin
4	Spain	72	Mali	140	St Vincent/Gr
5	Germany	73	Estonia	141	Ethiopia
6	Croatia	74	Bosnia-Herzegovina	142	Solomon Islands
7	Argentina	75	Gabon	143	Panama
7	Norway	76	Cuba	144	Andorra
9	Romania	77	Honduras	145	San Marino
10	Mexico	78	Iraq	146	Sri Lanka
11	England	79	Uzbekistan	147	Dominica
12	Italy	80	Northern Ireland	148	Saint Lucia
13	Yugoslavia	80	Canada	149	Antigua & Barbuda
14	Denmark	82	Nigeria	150	Maldives
15	Portugal	82	Senegal	151	Lesotho
16	Sweden	84	Namibia	152	Gambia
17	Netherlands	85	AUSTRALIA	153	Laos
18	Paraguay	86	Albania	154	Dominican Republic
19	Russia	87	Armenia	155	Nepal
20	Slovakia	87	Algeria	156	Yemen
21	United States	89	Togo	157	Cayman Islands
22	Chile	90	Guinea	158	Mauritania
23	Scotland	91	Oman	159	Rwanda
24	Morocco	91	Qatar	159	Kyrgyzstan
24	Colombia	93	Moldova	161	Niger
26	Israel	93	Wales	162	Surinam
26	Austria	95	El Salvador	163	British Virgin Is.
28	Ukraine	96	Belarus	164	Bermuda
29	Tunisia	97	Indonesia	165	Botswana
30	Belgium	98	Azerbaijan	166	Korea DPR
31	South Africa	99	Mozambique	167	Netherlands Antilles
32	Poland	100	Haiti	168	Entréa
33	Turkey	101	New Zealand	169	Palestine
34	Greece	102	Congo	170	Cambodia
35	Zambia	103	Kenya	171	Guyana
36	Republic of Ireland	104	Singapore	172	Guinea-Bissau
37	Bulgaria	104	Liberia	173	Chinese Taipei
38	Egypt	106	Vietnam	174	Macao
39	Saudi Arabia	107	Syria	175	Cape Verde Is
40	Trinidad & Tobago	108	Uganda	176	Tonga
41	Korea Republic	109	Lebanon	177	Samoa
42	Uruguay	109	India	178	Philippines
43	Slovenia	111	Venezuela	179	Pakistan
43	Jamaica	112	Faroe Islands	180	Cook Islands
45	Peru	113	Malawi	180	Papua New Guinea
46	Iran	114	Barbados	180	Chad
47	Hungary	115	Jordan	183	Vanuatu
48	Iceland	116	Malaysia	184	Puerto Rico
49	Switzerland	117	Tajikistan	185	Brunei Darussalam
50	Lithuania	118	Kazakhstan	188	Bahamas
51	Ivory Coast	119	Mauritius	187	Belize
52	Japan	120	Malta	187	Aruba
53	Angola	121	Sierra Leone	189	Seychelles
54	Finland	122	Turkmenistan	190	Nicaragua
55	Ghana	123	Grenada	191	Central African Rep.
55	Cameroon	124	Luxembourg	192	US Virgin Islands
57	Bolivia	125	Hong Kong	193	Equatorial Guinea
58	Cyprus	126	Tanzania	193	Djibouti
59	Congo DR (Zaire)	127	Myanmar	195	Turks and Caicos Islands
60	China PR	128	Liechtenstein	196	Sao Tome e Principe
61	Latvia	128	Sudan	197	Somalia
62	Ecuador	130	Swaziland	198	Mongolia
63	Thailand	131	Burundi	198	American Samoa
64	FYR Macedonia	132	Fiji	200	Guam
65	Georgia	133	Bahrain	201	Montserrat
66	UAE	134	Madagascar	201	Anguilla
67	Kuwait	135	Bangladesh		
68	Zimbabwe	136	Tahiti		

Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.



LEEDS CAN WIN TITLE

Leeds United's youngsters have a great chance of winning the English premier league title, captain Lucas Radebe said last week.

Manager David O'Leary claims his side are not "the finished article" but South African Radebe has no such doubts.

"Why not? I think we are capable of winning the title," he told BBC radio.

Leeds last won the English championship in 1992 and are in scintillating form this season. The Yorkshire club — a major force in European soccer in the 1970s — broke a 68-year-old club record in October when they won 10 matches in a row.

"If we keep playing the way we are playing and keep getting the results then we should win it," Radebe said.



"We may not have the same size squads as Manchester United, Arsenal

and Chelsea,.. especially in terms of spending lots of money.

"But we have got good players who are very enthusiastic and who are willing to work hard for each other which is good for team spirit and good for a team."

"We haven't got big name players or players that cost 20 million pounds... we've got players who want to achieve and who want to make a name for themselves."

"It is a great pleasure to be able to be there with them — they make me feel young as well," said the 30-year-old. "I enjoy each and every moment of it."

"We want to get Leeds where they belong. to make them a big club."

REAL WANT MY SILENCE — TOSHACK

Former Real Madrid coach John Toshack accused the Spanish giants of trying to gag him last week.

Speaking publicly for the first time since his November 17 dismissal, Toshack told a news conference Real were demanding his silence in return for paying the remainder of his contract.

"If I have a press conference and criticise the club then they are threatening not to pay me until next July," Toshack said. "But I have a right to speak my mind."

Toshack had a contract with Real

Madrid until June 30 next year, and is demanding a severance payment from the club.

He declined to comment on how much he has demanded but Spanish media reports put the figure at around 130 million pesetas (\$800,000).

The Welshman dimmed club claims they were trying to ensure his contract was formally completed before paying him the money.

"The directors should fulfil their obligations. Remember when they called and came to Turkey (where he was coach of Besiktas). It took them 24 hours to sort out my contract there and

for me to be on my way to becoming the Real Madrid coach," Toshack said.

He said he accepted his sacking but thought he had done a good job during his brief spell at Madrid.

Toshack took over in February after the sacking of Dutch coach Guus Hiddink but was dismissed for his outspoken criticism of the club midway through a 16-month contract.

"I arrived when the team was in seventh place and we finished the season in second spot. I don't know whether that's good, bad or indifferent, I committed some errors but that's the truth of the situation," Toshack said.

RAVANELLI JOINS LAZIO

Olympique Marseille's Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli confirmed last week he had signed an 18-month contract with Lazio.

Ravanelli, who had a year to run on his Marseille contract, said the deal included an option for another year.

"It's been agreed all along with the Marseille directors that the day a big Calcio (Italian soccer) club expressed interest in me, I'd have the possibility of leaving this club," he said at the

end of a Marseille training session.

"I'm leaving because that also allows me to join my sick father," added the former Juventus and Middlesbrough striker.

Ravanelli, capped 22 times, has said he wanted to return home to try to win a place in Italy's Euro 2000 squad.

Marseille did not disclose the transfer fee, but a clause in Ravanelli's contract allows him to return to Italy for around \$1 million.



Fabrizio Ravanelli: Back to Italy.

ANELKA IN TROUBLE

Nicolas Anelka is in trouble with Real Madrid coach Vicente del Bosque after making a reluctant blink-and-you'll-miss-it appearance in last week's 3-1 defeat of Rosenborg Trondheim in the Champions' League.

Del Bosque is angry with the striker for the way he slowly peeled off his track suit when preparing to come on as substitute for Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf in the dying seconds

of Madrid's win.

"I wasn't happy with the way he accepted the instruction to prepare to play," said Del Bosque, who is temporarily in charge.

"He needs to be sorted out, but we need to do it in a way that is in both his and the club's best interests."

Asked if Anelka remained part of Real Madrid's plans, Del Bosque shrugged his shoulders and declined to answer.

The controversial Frenchman has failed to score since leaving Arsenal in a \$35.7 million deal in the off-season.

Anelka's only contribution to the game was giving away a free kick just before the final whistle. He was pelted with stones when he left training, 48 hours after Madrid's humiliating 5-1 home league defeat by Real Zaragoza.

Madrid remain 17th in the 20-team Spanish league.

WORLD

WORLD CUP DRAW



Qualifying Highlight:

Germany Vs England



Former world champions Germany and England were drawn against each other last week in the qualifying competition for the 2002 World Cup — their first meeting in the World Cup outside the finals.

The pairing of two of soccer's traditionally greatest rivals was the climax of a 90-minute ceremony at Tokyo's International Forum as Germany were the last of the 198 teams to be drawn.

Three-times World Cup winners



Bobby Charlton: Ambassador.

Germany and England have met four times in the finals, including the 1966 final in England when the host nation won, but never before in a World Cup

qualifying competition.

West Germany, as they were then, eliminated England in the quarter-finals in 1970 and in 1990 beat them on penalties after a 1-1 draw in their semifinal in Turin. Their other clash was in the second round in Spain in 1982 which ended 0-0.

Bobby Charlton and Franz Beckenbauer, who played against each other in the 1966 World Cup final and the quarter-final in Mexico in 1970 and who are both leading ambassadors for their countries' rival bids to stage the 2006 finals, were sitting next to each other in the auditorium. They smiled and shook hands when the draw was made.

Elimination Risk

With only the group winners qualifying for the 2002 finals in Japan and South Korea, the first finals staged in Asia, one former champion risks elimination, though group runners-up get a second chance by going into the play-offs.

A record 198 nations have entered the 2002 World Cup. Hosts Japan and South Korea qualify automatically along with champions France while the remaining 29 berths in the 32-nation finals come from the qualifiers.

The toughest draws inevitably came in the European section as all 10 South American teams, including former World Cup winners Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, play in the same group.

The top four qualify and the fifth best meet the Oceania winners in a play-off.

Asia and Africa have preliminary draws only which means the serious business will come later



Franz Beckenbauer: Shook hands with Bobby Charlton.

Germany and England were placed with Greece, Finland and Albania in group nine.

German coach Erich Ribbeck, who joked with England team boss Kevin Keegan about being drawn together over a beer a day earlier, said: "England are certainly the most dangerous team in our group but I'm not saying the other opponents are weak."

"We have never played England in the World Cup qualifiers and it will be very tough. We have played the other countries more recently but there is a special rivalry with England."

"You could play the match at nine

o'clock on a Monday morning and the stadium would still be full."

Keegan, who spent three years of his playing career with Hamburg SV, said he had many friends in the German soccer world.

"But for these two games we'll have to be the best of enemies," he added.

"Last night we were joking about playing each other over a beer. Now the joking will have to stop."

Germany Vs England
The Complete History

Germany and England, drawn together in the 2002 World Cup qualifying tournament, have met seven times previously in official competition, four times in the World Cup finals and three times in the European championship.



Kevin Keegan: Joke became reality.

RESULTS:

- 1966 - World Cup final
- England 4 Germany 2 - after extra time (at Wembley)
- 1970 - World Cup quarter-final
- Germany 3 England 2 - after extra time (in Leon)
- 1972 - European championship quarter-final
- England 1 Germany 3 (at Wembley)
- Germany 0 England 0 (in Berlin)
- Germany won 3-1 on aggregate
- 1982 - World Cup second round group stage
- Germany 0 England 0 (in Madrid)
- 1990 - World Cup semifinal
- Germany 1 England 1 - after extra time (in Turin)
- Germany won 4-3 on penalties
- 1996 - European championship semifinal
- England 1 Germany 1 - after extra time (at Wembley)
- Germany won 6-5 on penalties

MAN. UTD RE-SIGN KEANE

Roy Keane has signed a new four year contract with European champions Manchester United, the club announced last week.

The 28-year-old Irish international midfielder has ended months of speculation by agreeing a deal worth a reported 50,000 pounds (\$81,310) a wage which would make him the highest-paid player in the English premier league.

United announced the news over the public address system at Old Trafford shortly before the kick off of their Champions League match against Spanish side Valencia.

"The club is delighted to announce Roy Keane has signed a new contract this afternoon," the crowd was told.

"We are delighted Roy has committed his future to Manchester United." The news was greeted by thunderous applause from the Old Trafford full house.

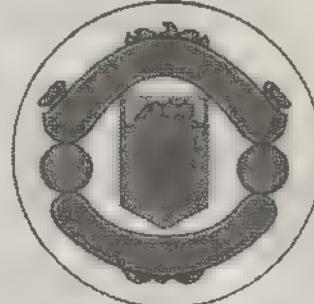
"I'm absolutely delighted that my future with the best club in the world is now secured," said Keane.

"I never wanted to leave Manchester United and the contract that I have now signed indicates to me United's desire to remain at the top of world football."

"It's been a bit of a burden the last six months

but I said I wouldn't sign the contract until it was right. United deserve credit for coming up with the contract I felt I deserved. I'm delighted it's all over really."

"The fans have had a big say as has the manager and hopefully I can repay them with some more silverware."



United chief executive Martin Edwards said in a statement.

"We never wanted Roy to leave. He is the club captain and the real leader of the team. He represents everything that is ambitious about Manchester United and has played a significant part in our success in winning two doubles and last year's treble."

Keane's current contract was due to run out at

the end of the current season and he delayed signing an extension last August, sparking speculation he wanted to leave and see out his career overseas.

After talks at the beginning of the season broke down both sides said they would try again at the end of the season.

But Keane would have been free to talk to interested clubs on January 1 and, had he moved at the end of the season, United would not have received any transfer fee.

United were reluctant to break their wage structure to accommodate Keane but faced with the enormous transfer fee that would have been necessary for a replacement — who would have demanded similar wages — they appear to have made an exception.

Not that a suitable replacement would be easy to find.

Keane's inspirational performances in the centre of the United midfield have been a major factor in their recent success and few players in the world game can match his destructive qualities.

However, he played for only a few minutes in last season's F.A. Cup final after being injured and missed the dramatic European Cup final triumph over Bayern Munich through suspension.

United won the treble of English league and Cup, and European Cup, last season.



Roy Keane: Celebrated his new contract by scoring the first goal against Valencia in the champions League (above). Man. Utd won 3-0.

WORLD



WORLD CUP DRAW

EUROPE

Group 1
Yugoslavia
Russia
Switzerland
Slovenia
Luxembourg
Faroe Islands

Group 2
Netherlands
Portugal
Ireland
Cyprus
Andorra
Estonia

Group 3
Czech Republic
Denmark
Bulgaria
Iceland
Northern Ireland
Malta

Group 4
Sweden
Turkey
Slovakia
Macedonia
Azerbaijan
Moldova

The nine group winners qualify for the finals in Japan and South Korea. The nine runners-up will go into a play-offs draw.

Eight will meet in four home-and-away pairings from which the four winners qualify for the finals. The ninth runner-up will play off against the third-placed Asian team.

Group 5
Norway
Ukraine
Poland
Wales
Armenia
Belarus

Group 6
Belgium
Scotland
Croatia
Latvia
San Marino

Group 7
Spain
Austria
Israel
Bosnia
Liechtenstein

Group 8
Romania
Italy
Lithuania
Hungary
Georgia

Group 9
Germany
England
Greece
Finland
Albania

SOUTH AMERICA

The 10 nations below will all play each other home and away in one group.

The teams finishing in the top four places qualify for the finals. The team placed fifth will play off against the winner of the Oceania qualifying competition for a place in the finals.

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Paraguay
Peru
Uruguay
Venezuela

ASIA FIRST ROUND DRAW

Group 1
Oman
Syria
Laos
Philippines

Group 2
Iran
Tajikistan
Myanmar
Quam

Group 3
Qatar
Malaysia
Hong Kong
Palestine

Group 4
Kuwait
Singapore
Bahrain
Kyrgyzstan

Group 5
Thailand
Lebanon
Sri Lanka
Pakistan

Group 6
Iraq
Kazakhstan
Nepal
Macao

Group 7
Uzbekistan
Jordan
Turkmenistan
Taiwan

Group 8
United Arab Emirates
India
Yemen
Brunei

Group 9
China
Indonesia
Maldives
Cambodia

Group 10
Saudi Arabia
Vietnam
Bangladesh
Mongolia

The 10 group winners qualify for final round which will be divided into two groups of five teams. The two winners of the final round

groups qualify for the finals in Japan and South Korea.

The two runners-up will play off for the right to meet a European

group runner-up in a further play-off. The winner of this play-off qualifies for the finals.

CONCACAF

First round draw

Central American zone:

Group A
1. El Salvador
2. Belize
3. Guatemala

Group B
1. Honduras
2. Nicaragua
3. Panama

The two group winners qualify for the semifinal round of 12 teams. The two runners-up play off against the

runners-up in Caribbean groups 2 and 3 for places in the semi-final round.

Caribbean zone:

Group 1
Cuba v Cayman Islands
Aruba v Puerto Rico

Group 2
St Lucia v Surinam
Barbados v Grenada

Group 2
St Vincent v U.S. Virgin Islands
St Kitts and Nevis v Turks and Caicos Islands
Guyana v Antigua

Group 3
Trinidad v Netherlands Antilles
Dominican Republic v Montserrat
Dominica v Haiti

Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico and the United States qualify directly for the semi-final round.

The 12 teams qualified for the semi-final round will be drawn into three groups of four teams.

The two top teams from each group qualify for the final round of six teams. They will play off in a single group from which the top three teams qualify for the finals in Japan and South Korea.

Teams play knockout tournament in three rounds. The three group winners qualify for semi-final round. The runner-up of group 1 plays off against Canada for a place in the semi-final round.

The two other runners up play off against the runners-up in the Central American zone for places in the semi-final round.



OCEANIA

First round draw

Group 1
Australia
Tonga
Fiji
American Samoa
Samoa

Group 2
New Zealand
Tahiti
Solomon Islands
Vanuatu
Cook Islands

The two group winners meet in a second round play off with home and away legs. The winner of this play-off meets in a further play-off with the fifth-placed South American team for a place in the finals.

AFRICA

First round draw

Cape Verde Islands v Algeria
Mauritania v Tunisia
Benin v Senegal
Guinea Bissau v Togo
Gambia v Morocco
Lesotho v South Africa
Swaziland v Angola
Botswana v Zambia
Madagascar v Gabon
Sudan v Mozambique
Equatorial Guinea v Congo
Libya v Mali

Rwanda v Ivory Coast
Sao Tome v Sierra Leone
Central African Republic v Zimbabwe

Seychelles v Namibia
Djibouti v Democratic Republic of Congo
Somalia v Cameroon
Mauritius v Egypt

Eritrea v Nigeria
Chad v Liberia
Uganda v Guinea

Ethiopia v Burkina Faso
Malawi v Kenya
Tanzania v Ghana

Teams play direct knockout with home and away legs.

Winners go through to second round which will be divided into five groups of five teams. The five winners of these groups qualify for the finals.

BILL HURLEY'S
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Ole Gunnar Solskjær	\$251.00
Chris Sutton	\$501.00
Gianfranco Zola	\$501.00

WORLD

EURO 2000

400,000 TICKETS SOLD

The initial batch of 400,000 of the 1.2 million tickets available for next year's European soccer championships have all been sold, tournament director Alain Courtois said.

"They have been mainly bought by fans in Belgium and the Netherlands but also by fans in England, Italy and even the United States. We want Euro 2000 to be a tournament for the fans and, because of the security checks that we have in place, we know that fans have bought these tickets," he added.

Another 400,000 tickets will go on sale next week following the draw for the finals.

Each country taking part will receive 16 percent of the total number of tickets available in the stadiums where their games are played.

Organisers hope that by having almost a third of the stadiums full of fans of the competing teams the atmosphere generated will be a positive one for the competition.

He said he was as certain as he could be that the tickets would not fall into the wrong hands and that a huge black market would not be created.

"I am convinced that the fans buying the tickets will be the ones who use them. There is a huge demand for people in Belgium and Holland to see these games."

After the second batch of 400,000 tickets are sold a further 32 per cent of the total will be distributed to UEFA's official partners (14 percent), the media (8 percent), UEFA and FIFA (5 percent) and corporate hospitality (5 percent).

The organisers also said that the kick-off for the final match in Rotterdam on July 2 had been put back from 1800 local time to 2000 to allow for a larger global television audience.

Courtois added: "These tickets will be distributed by the football association of each competing nation. Any not sold will be returned to the organisers and offered for sale back to the general public."

The organisers also said that the kick-off for the final match in Rotterdam on July 2 had been put back from 1800 local time to 2000 to allow for a larger global television audience.

THE DRAW

Co-hosts Belgium will start the Euro 2000 championships on June 10 against either Romania, Norway, Sweden or the Czech Republic in Brussels following decisions made by UEFA's executive committee.

Belgium were confirmed as top seeds along with reigning champions Germany, co-hosts the Netherlands and Spain, who top the current UEFA ranking co-efficient.

UEFA confirmed that the 16 teams competing in next year's European soccer championships will be split into four separate pots for Sunday's draw.

Romania, Norway, Sweden and the Czech Republic comprised the second group of seeds with Yugoslavia, Portugal, world champions France and Italy ranked third.

England, Turkey, Denmark and Slovenia were named as the fourth group of finalists.

UEFA president Lennart Johansson said: "With these 16 teams you could almost put

them in any order and in any group and it really would not make too much difference.

"But we decided to split them into four rankings to reflect the current UEFA standings."

"We could have put the remaining 12 teams into one pot but we thought this way was better."

The finals run from June 10 to July 2, with the final in Rotterdam.

Belgium's first three matches will all be in Brussels while the Netherlands will play their opening game at the Amsterdam Arena on June 11.

Their second match will be at the Feyenoord stadium in Rotterdam on June 16 and their final first round game back in Amsterdam on June 21.

Germany will start the defence of their title in Liege on June 12 and then travel to Charleroi before finishing their first round matches in Rotterdam on June 20.

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MATTHAUS JOINS MAJOR LEAGUE

Lothar Matthaus will leave Bayern Munich next March to join U.S. Major League club New York-New Jersey MetroStars, the club's commercial manager Uli Hoeneß said.

The 38-year-old Matthaus said last month he would be ready to stay with the German champions until the end of the season but Hoeneß said he would stay only until March 10.

"He will play two more Champions League matches and five Bundesliga games for us," Hoeneß said after the two clubs reached agreement on the final details of the libero's transfer.

Matthaus, who has a world-record equalling 143 caps, plans to take part in next year's European championship finals in Belgium and the Netherlands before ending his Germany career.



Lothar Matthaus: Off to the USA.



ABSW

WORLD



BECKHAM GUILTY

England and Manchester United soccer star David Beckham was banned from driving for eight months after he was found guilty of speeding by a court last week.

Beckham was also fined 800 pounds (\$1,299) and ordered to pay 190 pounds (\$308.5) in costs.

The midfielder told Stockport Magistrates' Court he was being pursued by a "paparazzi" photographer when he was recorded driving 76 mph (121 kph) in a 50-mile (80-kph) zone on July 24.

Beckham, 24, said the photographer, in a white car, chased him for about 10 miles (16 km) and he feared an accident could happen during the pursuit.



David Beckham: Eight month ban.

He said the car pulled alongside him on three occasions, causing him to swerve his silver Ferrari.

Beckham said he telephoned the police after the incident and told them he thought he might have been speeding.

Before the ruling, he had previous motoring offences noted on his driving license.

The football player, married to "Posh Spice" Victoria Adams, has an expensive collection of cars, including a \$132,000 convertible Jaguar XK8, a \$480,000 Ferrari 550 Maranello, a \$143,000 Porsche 911 Carrera S, a \$150,000 Range Rover and a \$55,000 series 3 BMW.

DUNGA SAYS NO TO AL NASSR

Former World Cup captain Dunga became the latest Brazilian player to snub Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr, the sports daily Lance said.

Dunga, whose future with Porto Alegre club Internacional is in doubt following a blazing row with coach Emerson Leao, reportedly turned down an offer to play for Al Nassr in the World Club championship in January.

"I'm very honoured by the offer but the holidays for myself and my family are sacred," he was quoted as saying.

Al Nassr have already tried to sign Cruzeiro striker Alex Alves, Palmeiras striker Paulo Nunes and former World Cup striker Romario without success for the eight-team tournament.

An official of championship's local organising committee said that Al Nassr had complained to soccer's governing body FIFA over Romario, claiming they signed a contract with him before he joined Vasco from Flamengo.

Romario said he replied to a fax from the Saudis but did not sign anything.

FIFA rules stipulate that players need only sign three month contracts with a



Dunga: Holidays are sacred.

club to take part in the championship, making it possible for a club to hire players almost exclusively for the competition. The deadline for new signings is December 20.

Dunga signed for Internacional at the start of the year but was kicked out of the team when the fiery Leao, a former international goalkeeper, took over as coach in October.

Leao later recalled Dunga, who replied by scoring the goal which saved the club from relegation in the Brazilian championship.

Dunga's reward was to be dropped again before a match in a consolation tournament for teams that did not make the quarter-finals of the Brazilian championship.

On being told of the decision, Dunga said he stormed out of the dressing-room, hailed a taxi in the street and went home.

The 36-year-old captained the Brazil team which won the 1994 World Cup and finished runners-up in 1998, after which he retired from international soccer.

AMORUSO ADMITS RACIST REMARKS

Rangers captain Lorenzo Amoruso admitted he made racist remarks to Borussia Dortmund's Viktor Ikpeba in their UEFA Cup tie.

Amoruso made a public apology to the Nigerian international in an embarrassing climbdown just hours after he had denied allegations he had racially abused him during the match won by Dortmund.

The Italian defender changed his story after watching a video of the televised incident with club officials the following morning.

The Scottish champions have yet to indicate if they will punish their captain

with a fine.

Amoruso said in a statement: "During the game I was involved in an incident with Viktor Ikpeba and words were exchanged. I do not remember making the remarks attributed to me."

"This morning I viewed the video of the game and, on this evidence, I cannot dispute the fact that I made the remarks. I would like to make an unreserved apology to Viktor Ikpeba."

"I would also like to make it clear that I am not a racist and deeply regret the upset I have caused to the player or anyone else."

The Scottish Sun tabloid used a lip-

reading expert to view the television footage of the incident and delivered their verdict with the backpage headline: "Read our lips Lorenzo — you're lying."

Earlier, Rangers coach Dick Advocaat had defended Amoruso, saying: "He told me he didn't use such words and I believe him. He is not in any way a racist man."

Amoruso helped to launch an anti-racism campaign earlier this season but now organiser Ged Greeby wants him punished.

"Rangers should make sure he is fined and we will be calling on the Scottish F.A. and UEFA to take action," he said.

TV GUIDE

* All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time

Tuesday December 14	Scottish Premier League	4pm - 6pm
English FA Cup Third Round	Teams TBA	
Ipswich v Southampton (Replay)	Fox Sports	1pm - 3pm
Fox Sports	UEFA Champions League Magazine	
4.30pm - 6.30pm	SBS TV	5pm - 7pm
Dutch First Division	UEFA Champions League Magazine	
Optus Vision (ESPN)	SBS TV	3.30pm - 4.30pm
7pm - 9pm	World Soccer	
PSV Eindhoven v Roda JC	PSV Eindhoven v Roda JC	6.30pm - 8.30pm
Italian Serie A	SBS TV	
Optus Vision (ESPN)	4.30pm - 5.30pm	
9pm - 11pm	English Premier League	
Wed. December 15	(Replay)	
European Soccer Show	SBS TV	
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)	5.30pm - 6.30pm	
10pm - 11pm	National Soccer League	
English FA Cup Third Round	Auckland v Melbourne Knights (Replay)	
Fox Sports	Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)	
7.30pm - 9pm	7.30pm - 9.30pm	
Thursday December 16	English Premier League	
Spanish Soccer	Teams TBA (LIVE)	
Fox Sports	Fox Sports	
8.30pm - 10.30pm	2am - 4am	
Soccer Central	(Sunday Morning)	
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)	Dutch First Division	
9pm - 10pm	FC Utrecht v Feyenoord (LIVE)	
Friday December 17	Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)	
Spanish Soccer (Replay)	Optus Vision (ESPN)	
Fox Sports 2	12.25am - 2.30am	
10am - 12pm	(Monday Morning)	
German Bundesliga	English Premier League	
Munich 1860 v Bayern Munich	Chelsea v Leeds (LIVE)	
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)	Fox Sports	
3pm - 5pm	2am - 5.30am	
Soccer Scene	(Monday Morning)	
Fox Sports	Dutch First Division	
5.30pm - 6.30pm	FC Utrecht v Feyenoord (LIVE)	
National Soccer League	Optus Vision (ESPN)	
Auckland v Melbourne Knights (LIVE)	12.25am - 2.30am	
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)	(Monday Morning)	
5.30pm - 7.30pm	English Premier League	
English First Division	Chelsea v Leeds (Replay)	
Wolverhampton v Birmingham City	Fox Sports 2	
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)	12pm - 2pm	
10am - 12pm	Best Of English Soccer	
National Soccer League	Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)	
Newcastle v Perth (LIVE)	5pm - 6pm	
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)	On The Ball	
7.30pm - 9.30pm	SBS TV	
English Premier League (Replay)	11.30am - 12.30pm	
last weekends FA Cup games	English Premier League (Replay)	
Fox Sports 2	Fox Sports 2	
11.55pm - 6am	1pm - 3pm	
Saturday December 18	French First Division	
Soccer Scene (Replay)	St Etienne v Marseille	
Fox Sports	Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)	
12pm - 1pm	7.30pm - 8.30pm	



WORLD

Excludes Monday games



UEFA CUP THIRD ROUND

Galatasaray (Turkey) 2 Bologna (Italy) 1
Galatasaray win 3-2 on aggregate, Kaiserslautern (Germany) 1 Racing Lens (France) 4 Lens won 5-3 on aggregate, Sturm Graz (Austria) 3 Parma (Italy) 3 - after extra time Parma won 5-4 on aggregate, Steaua Bucharest (Romania) 1 Slavia Prague (Czech Republic) 1 Slavia Prague won 5-2 on aggregate, Monaco (France) 1 AEK Athens (Greece) 0 Monaco win 3-2 on aggregate, Panathinaikos (Greece) 1 Deportivo Coruna (Spain) 1 Deportivo won 5-3 on aggregate, Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) 1 Udinese (Italy) 2 Aggregate 2-2. Udinese win on away goals rule, Nantes (France) 3 Arsenal (England) 3 Arsenal win 6-3 on aggregate, Leeds United (England) 1 Spartak Moscow (Russia) 0 Aggregate: 2-2, Leeds win on away goals rule, Newcastle United (England) 0 Roma (Italy) 0 Roma win 1-0 on aggregate, Benfica (Portugal) 1 Celta Vigo (Spain) 1 Celta won 8-1 on aggregate, Real Mallorca (Spain) 2 Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 0 Real Mallorca win 3-0 on aggregate, Atletico Madrid (Spain) 2 Wolfsburg (Germany) 1 Atletico Madrid win 5-3 on aggregate, Borussia Dortmund (Germany) 2 Rangers (Scotland) 0 - after extra time Aggregate: 2-2, Dortmund won 3-1 on penalties, Werder Bremen (Germany) 4 Olympique Lyon (France) 0 Bremen won 4-3 on aggregate, Juventus (Italy) 1 Olympiakos Piraeus (Greece) 2 Juventus won 4-3 on aggregate.

ENGLISH FA CUP THIRD ROUND

(Roman numerals denote division of non-premier league club. ML denotes minor league):
Chester (III) 1 Manchester City (I) 4, Huddersfield (I) 0 Liverpool 2, Leeds United 2 Port Vale (I) 0, Sheffield United (I) 1 Rusden and Diamonds (ML) 1 (replay Tuesday, Dec 21), Tottenham Hotspur 1 Newcastle United 1 (replay Wednesday, Dec 22), Aston Villa 2 Darlington (III) 1, Bolton (I) v Cardiff (II) postponed, Charlton (I) 2 Swindon (I) 1, Crewe (I) 1 Bradford (I) 2, Derby County 0 Burnley (II) 1, Exeter (III) 0 Everton 0, Fulham (I) 2 Luton (II) 0, Grimsby (I) 3 Stockport (I) 2, Hereford (ML) 0, Leicester City 0, Hull (III) 1 Chelsea 6, Norwich (I) 1 Coventry City 3, Preston (II) 2 Oldham (II) 1, Queens Park Rangers (I) 1 Torquay (III) 1, Reading (II) 1 Plymouth (III) 1, Sheffield Wednesday 1 Bristol City (II) 0, Sunderland 1 Portsmouth (I) 0, Tranmere (I) 1 West Ham United 0, Walsall (I) 1 Gillingham (II) 1, Watford 0 Birmingham (I) 1, West Bromwich (I) 2 Blackburn (I) 2, Wimbledon 1 Barnsley (I) 0, Wigan (II) 0 Wolverhampton (I) 1, Wrexham (II) 2 Middlesbrough 1, Cambridge (II) 2 Crystal Palace (I) 0, Nottingham Forest (I) 1 Oxford (II) 1.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1. Leeds	17	12	2	3	30	19	38
2. Man Utd	16	11	3	2	40	21	36
3. Arsenal	17	11	2	4	31	16	35
4. Sunderland	17	10	4	3	31	17	34
5. Liverpool	17	9	3	5	24	14	30
6. Leicester	17	9	2	6	26	23	29
7. Tottenham	16	8	3	5	25	20	27
8. West Ham	16	7	4	5	17	14	25
9. Chelsea	15	7	3	5	21	15	24
10. Middlesbrough	17	7	3	7	21	24	24
11. Coventry	17	5	6	6	23	18	21
12. Everton	17	5	6	6	25	27	21
13. Wimbledon	17	4	8	5	27	29	20
14. Newcastle	17	5	4	8	28	30	19
15. Aston Villa	17	5	4	8	14	19	19
16. Southampton	16	4	5	7	20	25	17
17. Bradford	16	3	4	9	13	25	13
18. Derby	17	3	3	11	15	29	12
19. Watford	17	3	2	12	13	33	11
20. Sheff Wed	16	1	3	12	14	40	6

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Huddersfield	22	13	4	5	39	22	43
2. Man City	22	13	3	6	32	19	42
3. Charlton	21	12	4	5	38	24	40
4. Ipswich	22	11	6	5	37	25	39
5. Barnsley	21	11	3	7	39	33	36

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Dundee United 1 Dundee 0, Aberdeen 0 Celtic 6, Hibernian 2 Motherwell 2, Rangers 1 Kilmarnock 0, St Johnstone v Hearts postponed.

6. Stockport	22	9	7	6	27	30	34
7. Fulham	21	8	9	4	24	18	33
8. Birmingham	21	8	8	5	32	23	32
9. QPR	22	8	8	6	32	28	32
10. Bolton	22	8	7	7	32	26	31
11. Blackburn	21	7	9	5	26	20	30
12. Wolverhampton	20	7	8	5	23	19	29
13. Tranmere	22	8	5	9	31	32	29
14. Norwich	21	7	7	7	19	19	28
15. West Brom	21	5	10	6	21	23	25
16. Crystal Palace	22	6	7	9	30	36	25
17. Grimsby	21	7	4	10	22	34	25
18. Crewe	21	6	5	10	22	29	23
19. Port Vale	22	5	7	10	26	31	22
20. Notts County	21	5	6	10	23	27	21
21. Portsmouth	22	5	6	11	25	36	21
22. Sheff Utd	22	5	6	11	25	38	21
23. Walsall	22	4	7	11	19	34	19
24. Swindon	22	3	8	11	16	34	17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Rangers	14	12	1	1	38	12	37
2. Celtic	16	12	0	4	48	14	36
3. Dundee United	17	9	3	5	23	22	30
4. Motherwell	16	7	6	3	27	25	27
5. Hibernian	18	5	6	7	27	33	21
6. Hearts	16	5	5	6	26	24	20
7. Dundee	16	6	0	10	20	27	18
8. St Johnstone	16	4	4	8	15	21	16
9. Kilmarnock	16	2	6	8	15	24	12
10. Aberdeen	17	2	3	12	17	54	9
8. Bologna	13	4	5	4	9	10	17
9. Fiorentina	13	4	5	4	14	16	17
10. Perugia	13	5	2	6	13	16	17
11. Lecce	13	5	2	6	11	21	17
12. Udinese	13	4	4	5	18	22	16
13. Torino	13	3	5	5	10	16	14
14. Verona	13	3	4	6	10	19	13
15. Piacenza	13	2	5	6	9	14	11
16. Reggina	13	2	5	6	13	21	11
17. Venezia	13	2	3	8	9	18	9
18. Cagliari	13	0	6	7	12	25	6

LEADING SCORERS

15 - Mark Viduka (Celtic)	10 - Herman Crespo (Parma)
9 - Michael Mols (Rangers), Billy Dodds (Dundee United), Gary McSwegan (Hearts)	8 - Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan)
8 - John Spencer (Motherwell)	7 - Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus)
7 - Henrik Larsson (Celtic), Willie Falconer (Dundee), Nathan Lowndes (St Johnstone), Russell Latapy (Hibernian), Eyal Berkovic (Celtic), Jorg Albertz (Rangers)	6 - Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina), Christian Vieri (Inter Milan), Marcelo Salas (Lazio), Cristiano Lucarelli (Lecce), Oliver Bierhoff (AC Milan), Marco Delvecchio (AS Roma), Roberto Muzzi (Udinese)
6 - Jonatan Johansson (Rangers), Lee McCulloch (Motherwell)	5 - Sebastian Veron (Lazio), Mohamed Kallon (Reggina), Vincenzo Montella (AS Roma), Filippo Maniero (Venezia)
4 - Claudio Reyna (Rangers), Dirk Lehmann (Hibernian), Kenny Miller (Hibernian), Colin Cameron (Hearts), Christophe Cocard (Kilmarnock), Rod Wallace (Rangers), Stephane Adam (Hearts), Lubomir Moravcik (Celtic), Mixi Paatelainen (Hibernian).	4 - Yksel Osmanovski (Bari), Patrick Mboma (Cagliari), Ivan Zamorano (Inter), George Weah (Milan), Francesco Totti (AS Roma)
3 - Duccio Innocenti (Bari), Giuseppe Signori (Bologna), Daniele Berretta (Cagliari), Alvaro Recoba and Ronaldo (Inter), Alen Boksic, Simone Inzaghi and Dejan Stankovic (Lazio), Marco Di Vaio and Alain Boghossian (Parma), Renato Olive (Perugia), Arturo Di Napoli and David Dionigi (Piacenza), Marco Ferrante (Torino), Paolo Poggi (Udinese), Fabian Valtolina (Venezia), Adailton (Verona)	2 - Alaves 2 Real Betis 0, Atletico Madrid 1 Valencia 2, Celta Vigo 1 Athletic Bilbao 1, Espanyol 1, Valladolid 1, Real Mallorca 1 Oviedo 1, Racing Santander 1 Real Madrid 1, Rayo Vallecano 4, Malaga 1, Real Sociedad 0 Deportivo Coruna 1, Real Zaragoza 3 Numancia 3, Sevilla 3 Barcelona 2.

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts

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WORLD

Excludes Monday games

**GERMAN FIRST DIVISION**

VfL Wolfsburg 1 Eintracht Frankfurt 0, SSV Ulm 3
 Kaiserslautern 1, Bayer Leverkusen 2 Hamburg SV
 2, Borussia Dortmund 1 VfB Stuttgart 1, Hansa
 Rostock 0 Bayern Munich 3, TSV 1860 Munich 3
 Schalke 04 3, SC Freiburg 0 Hertha Berlin 1, Werder
 Bremen 2 SpVgg Unterhaching 2, Arminia Bielefeld
 0 MSV Duisburg 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bayern Munich	15	9	3	3	29	12	30
2. Bayer Leverkusen	15	7	7	1	25	16	28
3. Hamburg SV	15	7	6	2	32	17	27
4. TSV 1860 Munich	15	7	4	4	25	19	25
5. Borussia Dortmund	15	6	6	3	20	13	24
6. Werder Bremen	15	6	5	4	33	22	23
7. Kaiserslautern	15	7	2	6	20	26	23
8. VfB Stuttgart	15	6	3	6	16	17	21
9. Hertha Berlin	15	5	6	4	21	23	21
10. Schalke 04	15	4	8	3	21	19	20
11. VfL Wolfsburg	15	5	5	5	20	27	20
12. SpVgg Unterhaching	15	5	4	6	16	17	19
13. Hansa Rostock	15	4	5	6	21	32	17
14. SC Freiburg	15	4	4	7	21	22	16
15. MSV Duisburg	15	2	7	6	17	23	13
16. SSV Ulm	15	3	4	8	14	24	13
17. Eintracht Frankfurt	15	3	2	10	16	22	11
18. Arminia Bielefeld	15	2	5	8	11	27	11

LEADING SCORERS

8 - Marco Bode (Werder Bremen), Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen), Ebbe Sand (Schalke 04), Adel Sellimi (SC Freiburg)

7 - Ailton, Claudio Pizarro (both Werder Bremen), Jonathan Akpoborie (VfL Wolfsburg), Elber (Bayern Munich)

6 - Hans-Joerg Butt (Hamburg SV), Martin Max (TSV 1860 Munich), Marc Wilmots (Schalke 04)

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Utrecht 1 PSV Eindhoven 1, Den Bosch 2 Vitesse Arnhem 1, RKC Waalwijk 0 MVV Maastricht 4, Willem II Tilburg v NEC Nijmegen and Heerenveen v Feyenoord postponed, Roda JC Kerkrade 2 Graafschap Doetinchem 3, Cambuur Leeuwarden v Sparta Rotterdam postponed, AZ Alkmaar 2 Fortuna Sittard 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. PSV Eindhoven	15	11	2	2	50	12	35
2. Ajax Amsterdam	15	11	2	2	45	20	35
3. Heerenveen	15	10	1	4	29	16	31
4. AZ Alkmaar	17	10	1	6	35	27	31
5. Twente Enschede	16	8	6	2	28	16	30
6. Feyenoord	15	8	5	2	29	15	29
7. Willem II Tilburg	15	9	2	4	29	29	29
8. Roda JC Kerkrade	16	9	2	5	28	21	29
9. RKC Waalwijk	17	9	2	6	29	31	29
10. Vitesse Arnhem	16	8	4	4	29	23	28
11. Utrecht	17	7	1	9	25	31	22
12. Sparta Rotterdam	15	4	0	11	22	36	12
13. Graafschap	16	2	6	8	17	27	12
14. MVV Maastricht	16	3	3	10	25	40	12
15. NEC Nijmegen	15	3	2	10	19	34	11
16. Fortuna Sittard	17	2	4	11	17	30	10
17. Den Bosch	17	2	4	11	16	44	10
18. Cambuur	16	2	3	11	15	35	9

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Bastia 1 Monaco 0, Metz 1 Paris St Germain 3, St Etienne 5 Olympique Marseille 1, Stade Rennes 1, Olympique Lyon 2, Sedan 1 AJ Auxerre 1, Troyes 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
18 - Ole-Martin Aarst (Ghent), Toni Brogno (Westerlo)	17	7	4	6	34	26	25
12 - Jan Koller (Anderlecht)	17	7	2	8	32	30	23
10 - Tomasz Radzinski (Anderlecht), Per Zeitzerberg (Anderlecht)	17	1	8	8	14	32	11
17. Lommel	17	1	8	8	14	32	11
18. Verbroedering Geel	17	1	8	8	11	34	11

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

Kalamata 1 Apollon Athens 1, Olympiakos Piraeus 2, Paniliakos Pyrgos 1, Kavala 3 Panionios Athens 7, Ionikos Piraeus 1 Iraklis Salonika 1, Aris Salonika 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Partizan	18	15	2	1	42	13	47
2. Obilic	18	15	2	1	36	12	47
3. Red Star	18	12	5	1	40	10	41
4. Milicionar	18	8	4	6	23	18	28
5. Rad	18	7	6	5	27	22	27
6. Sutjeska	19	8	3	8	26	31	27
7. Zeleznik	18	7	5	6	23	19	26
8. Radnicki (K)	18	7	4	7	18	23	25
9. Buducnost	17	7	3	7	20	19	24
10. OFK Beograd	18	6	6	6	26	29	24
11. Vojvodina	18	7	2	9	24	23	23

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
12. Hajduk (K)	18	6	5	7	15	17	23
13. Cukaricki	17	6	4	7	19	20	22
14. Zemun	18	6	4	8	24	35	22
15. Hajduk (B)	18	6	2	10	31	35	20
16. Radnicki (N)	18	6	2	10	21	25	20
17. Proleter	18	4	7	7	15	21	19
18. Mogren	18	5	4	9	16	30	19
19. Sartid	18	4	4	10	17	26	16
20. Spartak	18	3	5	10	10	31	14
21. Borac	19	3	3	13	22	36	12

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Croatia's soccer association on Saturday postponed all weekend league matches as part of the mourning for Croatia President Franjo Tudjman. He died late on Friday. Authorities banned all public cultural and sports events for three days until Tudjman is buried on December 13.

HUNGARIAN FIRST DIVISION

Dunaferr 6 Diósgyör 0, Vasas Budapest 4 Siofok 0, Szeged 1 Kispest Budapest 1, Györ ETO 4 Nyíregyse Spartacus 0, Vac 0 Újpest Budapest 4, Zalaegerszeg 1 Tata Banya 1, Halász Szombathely 0 Ferencváros 2, MTK Budapest 1 Debrecen 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dunaferr	17	10	6	1	44	15	36
2. Vasas Budapest	17	11	1	5	32	16	34
3. MTK Budapest	17	9	6	2	30	14	33
4. Debrecen	17	8	5	4	25	18	29
5. Újpest Budapest	16	7	6	3	28	19	27
6. Tatabanya	17	6	8	3	20	19	26
7. Gazszer	15	6	7	2	21	18	25
8. Györ ETO	17	6	6	5	28	18	24
9. Zalaegerszeg	17	6	6	5	21	13	24
10. Ferencváros	16	6	4	6	2		

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Total

Home

Away

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	11	7	2	2	19	9	23	5	2	2	1	8	6	6	5	0	1	11	3
CARLTON	11	6	3	2	24	12	21	6	4	1	1	14	7	5	2	2	1	10	5
PERTH GLORY	11	6	3	2	24	13	21	6	3	2	1	17	9	5	3	1	1	7	4
BRISBANE STRIKERS	11	6	3	2	18	10	21	6	3	2	1	13	7	5	3	1	1	5	3
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	11	5	3	3	20	17	18	5	3	0	2	8	7	6	2	3	1	12	10
MARCONI STALLIONS	11	5	2	4	14	17	17	5	3	0	2	4	7	6	2	2	2	10	10
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	11	4	4	3	15	15	16	5	1	3	1	8	8	6	3	1	2	7	7
AUCKLAND KINGZ	11	4	3	4	19	20	15	5	1	2	2	7	11	6	3	1	2	12	9
SOUTH MELBOURNE	11	4	2	5	18	18	14	5	4	1	0	14	4	6	0	1	5	4	14
GIPPSLAND FALCONS	11	3	4	4	8	11	13	5	2	1	2	4	3	6	1	3	2	4	8
NORTHERN SPIRIT	11	4	1	6	9	15	13	4	2	0	2	4	5	7	2	1	4	5	10
PARRAMATTA POWER	11	3	3	5	17	19	12	7	2	3	2	10	9	4	1	0	3	7	10
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	11	4	0	7	11	20	12	6	3	0	3	6	6	5	1	0	4	5	14
CANBERRA COSMOS	11	3	2	6	15	19	11	7	2	1	4	9	8	4	1	1	2	6	11
SYDNEY UNITED	11	2	3	6	7	15	9	6	2	1	3	4	6	5	0	2	3	3	9
ADELAIDE FORCE	11	1	4	6	8	16	7	5	1	2	2	6	7	6	0	2	4	2	9

Canberra Cosmos

(Arrantz 49)

Sydney Olympic

(Mendez 34, Cardozo 43pen, Baillie 71)

Venue: Bruce Stadium Crowd: 1,795 Referee: S Micallef
Cautions: Roberts (CC) 24, Emerton (SOI) 37, Barlow (CC) 43, Phillips (SO) 88.

Teams: **Canberra Cosmos**: Barlow, Milin, Popovich, Polak, Watkins, Hamilton (Purdue 65), James, Hooker, Roberts (Kolpak 73), De Jesus, Arranz.

Sydney Olympic: Bouhoutsos, Zoricich, Baillie, Juric, Phillips, Cardozo, Emerton, Mendez (Carle 80), Wilson, Zorbas, Tome (Arambasic 76)

Parramatta Power

Newcastle Breakers

(Buonavoglia 63)

Venue: Parramatta Stadium Crowd: 4,004 Referee: C Diomis

Cautions: Angelucci (PP)

Teams: **Parramatta Power**: Crews, Bennet, Vrkic (Bymes 80), Blagojevic, Eagleton, Elrich, Berry, Ardone (Thompson 61), J. Gibson: Sterjovski, Angelucci.

Newcastle Breakers: Catlin, Pryce, McManus, Moore, Sprod: Dodd (Smith 80), Wilson (Trpceski 85), Roberts, Wieczorek, Harper (Tanchevski 73), Buonavoglia.

Brisbane Strikers

Gippsland Falcons

(MacNicol 25)

Venue: Suncorp Metway Stadium Crowd: 2,111 Referee: M Breeze

Cautions: Bell (GF) 42, Marcina (GF) 53, Harris (BS) 57

Teams: **Brisbane Strikers**: Bolton, Gwynne, Bell (Baldwin 72), Ditton (Di Losa 59), Pilic (Smeltz 75), Foster, Dwyer, McLaren, Grierson, Harris, Meredith

Gippsland Falcons: Jevdjetic, Fak, Durakovic, MacNicol, Vargas (Hastie 90), Bell, Pucic, Hutchinson, Savage, Marcina, Nilo (Kakos 77)

Melbourne Knights

Northern Spirit

(Perenich 83)

Venue: Knights Stadium Crowd: 3,820 Referee: P Mur

Cautions: Abbas (MK) 58

Teams: **Melbourne Knights**: John, Rajher (Magdic 69), Kovacevic, Kelic, Nastevski (Trupkovic 73), Kiratzoglu, Abbas, Vukadin, Silic, Reda (Vassallo 61), Cervinski.

Northern Spirit: Perosh, Enes, Bingley, Rudan, Cranney, Moss (Lyons 80), Culina, Arnold (Curicco 86), Sobczyk, Griffiths, Saad (Perenich 67).

Carlton SC

(Moreira 8, Markovski 35, 41)

Sydney United

(Younis 90)

Venue: Olympic Park Crowd: 2,793 Referee: D Dwight

Cautions: Slater (C) 38, Genc (SU) 89

Teams: **Carlton SC**: Anastasiadis, McPherson, Douglas, Marth, Slater (Anthopoulos 46), Atkinson, Moreira (Deans 80), Lapsansky, Markovski (Conroy 65), Terminello, Packer.

Sydney United: Hughes, Kupresak, Bosnar, Savocca, Jurilj, A. Moric (Maric 46), Podeljak, Zec (Luif 72), Rastall, Genc, J. Moric.

Adelaide Force

(Pelosi 60)

Wollongong Wolves

(Petrovski 1, Chipperfield 89)

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium Crowd: 3,764 Referee: C Zetter

Cautions: Cervinski (WW) 20, Dongi Kim Kim (AF) 28, Stanton (WW) 54, Vidmar (AF) 88.

Teams: **Adelaide Force**: Knezevic, Tobin, Cartwright, Kemp, Costanzo, Kim, Vidmar, Brian (Talladira 66), Hassell (Sabljak 46), Mori, Pelosi.

Wollongong Wolves: Pogliacomi, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski, Horsley, Reid (Harlock 85), Surjan, Chipperfield, Huxley (Spencer 74), Petrovski, Young (Masi 80).

Marconi Stallions

(Mennillo 37, de Jong 64, Van Steeden 86)

Venue: Marconi Stadium Crowd: 4,472 Referee: J Blaney

Cautions: Jones (AK) 9, Stergiopoulos (AK) 63, Farah (MS) 68, Jackson (AK) 82

Teams: **Marconi Stallions**: Turnbull, Longo, Care, Maloney, Smith, Farah, Duric (Babic 46), Awaritefe (Karl 80), Renaud, Trajanovski (Kim 60), Zoric.

Auckland Kingz: Bunce, Stergiopoulos, Rufer (Jackson 67), deJong (Van Steeden 80), Mennillo (Perry 73), Middleby, Ngata, Osman, Velicich, Jones, Batty

Perth Glory

(Edwards 18, Despotovski 25pen, Boutsianis 52)

South Melbourne

(Anastasiadis 57)

Venue: Perth Oval Crowd: 12,385 Referee: M Shield

Cautions: Trajkovski (OPG) 1, Lozanovski (SM) 14, Orlic (SM) 27, Clarkson (SM) 32, Anastasiadis (SM) 62, Naven (PG) 78, Iosafidis (SM) 84

Rd Card: Uvarac (SM) 57

Teams: **Perth Glory**: Petkovic, Trajkovski, Hamwell, Naven, Miller, Edwards, Despotovski (Thorp 74), Wehrman (Carbone 46), Junior, Boutsianis, Ergic.

South Melbourne: Uvarac, Iosafidis, De Amicis, Orlic, C. Blatsis, Clarkson (Magnacca 64), Panopoulos, Curcija (Coveny 55), Anastasiadis (Mustafa 78), Lozanovski, Goutzioulis.

LEADING

GOALSCORERS

P Foster	(Brisbane Strikers)	9
A Moreira	(Carlton SC)	9
C Boutsianis	(Perth Glory)	6
J Buonavoglia	(Newcastle Breakers)	6
M Curcija	(Sth Melbourne)	6
J Griffiths	(Parramatta Power)	6
J Anastasiadis	(Sth Melbourne)	5
Z Babic	(Marconi Stallions)	5
P Cardozo	(Sydney Olympic)	5
B Despotovski	(Perth Glory)	5
A Edwards	(Perth Glory)	5
I Ergic	(Perth Glory)	5
S Petrovski	(Wollongong Wolves)	5
D Watkins	(Canberra Cosmos)	5

ROUND TWELVE

Friday 17 December: Auckland Kingz v

Melbourne Knights North Harbour Stadium

7.30pm, Newcastle Breakers v Perth Glory

Breakers Stadium 7.30pm, Northern Spirit v

Adelaide Force North Sydney Oval 7.30pm

Saturday 18 December: Gippsland

Falcons v Marconi Stallions Falcons Park

7pm

Sunday 19 December: Sydney United v

Parramatta Power Sydney United Sports Centre

6pm, Sth Melbourne v Carlton SC Bob Jane

Stadium 6pm, Sydney Olympic v Brisbane

Strikers Belmore Sports Ground 6.30pm,

Wollongong Wolves v Canberra Cosmos

Brandon Park 6.30pm.